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## Making haste slowly

The emergency national body for colleges and polytechnics proposed by Sir Keith Joseph is nothing like "Model A-and-a-half", the desirable compromise that retains local authority responsibility for advanced further education while providing the necessary national coordination and academic perspective to rationalize the present chaotic arrangements.

If anything, Sir Keith's new proposal is "Model A-minus-a-half" because it appears to be designed exclusively to do the Government's dirty work of contraction and rigidly to exclude any possibility of obtaining an academic, or even a medium-range political, perspective on the future government of the polytechnics and other non-university colleges.

Yet this emergency body cannot be spurned or boycotted. The local authorities must be all too acutely aware that the Department of Education and Science has been forced, temporarily, to abandon its centralist Model B ambitions by the parliamentary timetable. The DES has not undergone a change of heart. Only if the interim national body is seen to work reasonably well will the prospect of an oppressive centralization of decision-making in the non-university sector be kept at bay.

Stubborn resistance to the nationalization of advanced further education must remain the overriding priority of all those who reject such an outcome, whether their motive is to secure the democratic extension of

opportunities for higher education (which can only be achieved on the basis of a decentralized system) or to defend territory in a quasi-constitutional battle.

This means that the local authorities, and any other organizations like CDP, the Standing Conference of college principals, or Nathe which may be invited eventually to participate in the interim national body, must be prepared to get their hands dirty, and perhaps their principles compromised, by sharing decisions about the distribution of the cuts. After all, as with the University Grants Committee, shared responsibility for the distribution of cuts imposed through political necessity is neither appeasement nor collaboration. It is just plain common sense.

For its part the DES should accept that its plan for an interim national body can be improved. First, those organizations which have been involved with the Stephen Jones group apart from the local authorities should be included as members. After all even in the department's own negative logic it seems sensible to include representatives of the institutions and of the teaching staff when it is they who will be the victims of contraction.

Secondly, there is a strong case for providing a clear academic perspective, especially as one of the new body's jobs will be to liaise with the UGC with its subject rather than institutional preoccupations. Perhaps the best way to provide such a perspective would be to have representatives of the Council for National Academic Awards (and possibly of other validating bodies) as assessors.

Thirdly and finally, the DES should recognize that, however great the ministerial distaste for quangos, to be effective such a body must be provided with an adequate secretariat. Without adequate resources it could not do the job.

If these additions to the DES's original proposal were to be made, it is possible that given time and not too precipitate a contraction this interim national body could develop into a more permanent form which could achieve the necessary balance between local and national responsibility.

Indeed there is a case for believing that a gradualist approach to the creation of a national body for colleges and polytechnics could produce a more stable and more sensible solution than the all-or-nothing confrontation between Models A and B which was encouraged by last summer's Green Paper.

Were it not for the mindless cuts being imposed at a reckless pace, a national body with a broad membership from all the interests involved in non-university education and weighty academic assessors from the CNA, an efficient rather than a dignified body which operated within the broad framework of the present division of powers between local and central government, might represent useful and even hopeful progress.

## Alarming degree of ignorance

Our series on higher education and industry, which ends today, has confirmed the fears long expressed by many observers that an alarming and profoundly damaging degree of ignorance and lack of interest exists on both sides. It is a state of affairs which is neither acceptable nor even understandable in the current economic circumstances.

Those examples of collaboration which have been unearthed show clearly that there are great prizes to be won from a closer relationship. Joint projects frequently lead to collaboration as companies and institutions discover how easily mutual benefits can be obtained.

There is certainly no shortage of demands for higher education to change to accommodate the needs of the nation; industrialists are not slow to accuse the universities in particular of retaining an ivory tower mentality and to run down the quality of today's graduates. But much of the criticism is ill-informed and does not allow for the part which outdated

attitudes within industry itself play in perpetuating the present system. Many companies, for example, refuse to look beyond university single honours degree students for their graduate intake, spurning those institutions which have tried to model courses to the jobs market.

Still too few industrialists are willing to involve themselves in higher education, let alone commit funds or personnel from their firms to effect the changes they advocate. As government spending becomes ever tighter, such initiatives will provide the only means for many institutions to expand their activities. If industry is genuinely concerned about the state of higher education, it should be prepared to introduce sponsorship schemes and to open up exchanges of personnel as it does in America.

It is encouraging that the Confederation of British Industry is seeking a more active role in national education planning but this must be repeated at local level if there are to be worthwhile results. The process

would be achieved more smoothly if the flow was two-way, with more academics lending their talents to the solution of industrial problems.

The Government, too, has an important part to play in bringing the two sides closer together and seeing that the country has the higher education system it needs. As in so many other areas, the involvement of a number of different departments has resulted in inefficiency and inaction. One minister should be given responsibility for coordination.

As a former Secretary of State for Industry, Sir Keith Joseph should be ideally placed to advise on the relationship between higher education and the economy and to take a lead in demanding new developments. These need not necessarily push courses towards more vocationalism; indeed, most industrialists oppose such a move. It would be naive to suppose that there is a single approach which would satisfy both sides, but it is vital that the dialogue should improve.

## Send for Saatchi and Saatchi

As the Government's grip on higher education's windpipe has tightened during the summer and autumn, a proliferation of organized pressure groups to resist as best they can the cuts has taken place. There were at the latest count four main new ones.

First in time and possibly in importance came the Social Science Action Committee, 14 distinguished social scientists who feared that an unnatural prejudice against the social sciences lurked in the more private areas of policy-making and that the case for maintaining education expenditure at a time of considerable social stress and technological adjustment in Britain might not have been sufficiently weightily presented.

Second came the so-called "Sheffield Group" prominent in which, as the name suggests, were the principal of Sheffield City Polytechnic and that city's chief education officer. This group appears to have two aims: to make sure that at a time when cuts in university expenditure

have been made very visible by the action of the UGC, the parallel or even more serious plight of the colleges and polytechnics should not be forgotten.

The third group was the TUC's Educational Alliance which tried hard to make a principled case for increased (or at any rate restored) spending on education but inevitably concentrated on the protection of the present system and the jobs it provides against the cuts being imposed by the Government. The fourth group is the still embryonic socialist campaign for higher education.

It is certainly necessary for the Labour Party to have a more coherent policy for higher education before it can present a convincing case to the electorate and has not had a clear policy on this important area since the days of Anthony Crosland. The danger, as with the TUC alliance, is that this fourth campaign also will take on too defensive and too negative a tone. In addition to these four main

pressure groups there are, of course, more locally or sectionally based campaigns to protect parts of higher education. Most of the universities disadvantaged in the UGC's distribution of the cuts have launched vigorous defences, with Salford's CAMPUS perhaps in the vanguard. Campaigns for (public sector) education. There are no doubt others which we have missed, and new ones that will emerge.

Of course, these pressure groups have different aims which cannot be homogenized by some gigantic national coordinating committee. But surely there is a case, at the minimum for a reasonable agreement not to tread on each other's toes, and at the maximum for a shared campaign to get higher education's message across to the public rather than the lines of the local authorities' current "Keep It Local" campaign. Perhaps it is time for a joint approach to Saatchi and Saatchi.

Laurie Taylor



Vice chancellor. Yes, Dr Welsh? I'm afraid that I must speak quite frankly. I've been sitting here for nearly two hours, during which time this board has established exactly six sub-committees.

Not an unusually large number, Dr Welsh. We have after all been dealing with a number of highly complex issues. It would seem not to be practical, for example, to consider all the detailed implications of withdrawing the morning coffee service from the SCRS.

Vice chancellor. You do not take my point. I'm sorry, Dr Welsh. We have six new sub-committees. Yes, we are agreed on that. Don't you notice anything about their membership?

Erm... No women. What's that, Dr Welsh? No women, vice chancellor. We have appointed 36 people to six sub-committees and yet not one woman's name appears among the appointees. Not one on the college croche subcommittee where one might have thought a woman's voice essential. After all it is we women who actually bring the children to the world.

Quite so Dr Welsh. Well, I don't think there's any real disagreement here. In fact I intend to say that we should all be grateful to you for pointing out this quite... erm... accidental... bias. I take it that you yourself might be prepared to... erm...

No, vice chancellor. I may be the only woman on this board - a matter which in itself might invite some reflection - but I am not the only woman in the university.

Of course not, Dr Welsh. Well gentlemen, could we perhaps have some other nominations of female academics to supplement our six sub-committees along the lines suggested by Dr Welsh. Some nominations... come along gentlemen... two or three names might be enough for our immediate purpose... yes, Dr Roberts, you have a nomination?

Not exactly, sir. No, sir. What I really wanted to do was raise a small point of information.

Certainly. I wondered if... and I hope Dr Welsh will take this in the spirit in which it is... how shall I put it... the spirit in which it is... erm... offered.

Yes, Dr Roberts. Could we now move to your substantial point. Yes sir. I was just wondering if Dr Welsh could help our colleagues along a little... erm... by just mentioning... just mentioning... the names of any other female academics in the university, just as a reminder, you understand.

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## Vice chancellors draw up £180m redundancy scheme

by Ngao Crequer

Vice chancellors have proposed to the University Grants Committee a redundancy compensation scheme for academics that could cost about £180m. And they want a decision on the scheme within the next weeks because they have to make immediate decisions on sacking staff.

The scheme proposed by the Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals, details of which were being released to all universities today, would not prevent tenured lectures in the courts for breach of contract.

The committee has told the UGC that further cash would be needed to meet such claims, but it has been impossible to estimate an amount.

The proposals, described as

"reasonably equitable treatment" are based on the arrangements that exist for civil servants.

A 40-year-old lecturer, with 15 years service and a salary of £11,425 would receive £23,800 plus at 65 a pension of £2,142 and £6,426 lump sum.

So if for example, Bristol University made 150 academics redundant, taking a 40-year-old lecturer as the average, and ignoring the payments at 65, it would cost the university £3,570,000.

Applying the same calculations to Bradford University, which has estimated that 480 academic jobs might have to go, the scheme could cost £11m. In fact the UGC has proposed that Bradford's total recurrent grant

for 1984-4 should be only £9,640,000. The scheme has been formally put to the UGC and will be discussed by the committee with Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education on Monday.

The CVCP has told the UGC: "A number of universities face the immediate need to make staff redundant, and therefore must know in the very near future the terms on which they will be provided with funds for the purpose. Decisions are required in weeks rather than months."

"The present proposals cannot, and are not intended to abridge the contractual rights of staff, and we would emphasise that they constitute what we would think to be equitable even if tenure did not exist."

It would be indefensible if staff were treated less favourably than college of education lecturers dismissed in the 1970s. The scheme improves the Premature Retirement Compensation Scheme for lecturers aged over 50 and proposes a lump sum severance payment plus deferred pension and lump sum at 65 for those under 50.

But it has also warned that the effect of large numbers of people taking early retirement will mean that the costs of compensation will be even greater than suggested. It proposes that if staff are made redundant on less favourable terms than the scheme, before its adoption, its terms would apply retrospectively.

Under the scheme a lecturer aged 55, salary £15,410, with 30 years' service would get a pension of £7,705 and lump sum of £23,115; a lecturer aged 62, salary £18,480, 37 years' service would get £25,212 plus pension of £4,623 at 65 and £13,869; a lecturer aged 39, with 14 years' service, salary £11,000 would get £21,091 plus pension of £1,925 at 65 and £5,775 and a lecturer aged 30, with five years' service, salary £7,700 would get £3,210 plus pension of £481 at 65 and £1,444.

Figures given by Scottish Education minister, Mr Alex Fletcher, for redundancy payments for education college lecturers have been condemned as utterly misleading and distorted by the Association of Lecturers in Colleges of Education in Scotland.



Imperial College students Chris Rolph, Phil Bird, Andy Rushton and Mark Haselden were given rousing send-off by fellow students as they set off on the London to Brighton vintage car rally. Their car, a 1902 two-cylinder, nine-horse power, James and Brown, is maintained by City and Guilds students at the college.

## ILEA sends auditors to examine poly books

by David Jobbins

A team of outside auditors has been sent in to examine the finances of the Polytechnic of Central London, which is facing a major cash crisis.

The Inner London Education Authority has given rector Dr Colin Adamson four weeks to draw up plans to eliminate the polytechnic's £500,000 deficit by the summer of 1983.

This dramatic development in the long-running conflict between PCL and ILEA has come over the polytechnic's refusal to finance the £500,000 interest charges on the polytechnic's overdraft through the academic year 1982-83.

A letter from Mr John Bevan, ILEA's director of education, to Dr Adamson, says: "We take the view that the expenditure of public funds to pay for the polytechnic to maintain an overdraft for a protracted period is unacceptable."

The audit team is to be asked to recommend ways of alleviating the polytechnic's cash flow problems which result from having to pay out

money before it receives its block grant allocation - currently nearly £13m. The polytechnic is already talking with the authority about the allocation from 1982-83 and has asked for £14m.

Dr Adamson has already frozen all appointments provoking hostile union reactions. But Mr Bevan says in his letter that although this is a necessary first step "this alone will by no means suffice to remedy the situation."

An ILEA spokesman confirmed that the polytechnic had not sought approval for the overdraft it has already sustained over the summer.

ILEA has warned Dr Adamson that until the polytechnic takes "sufficient and appropriate" steps to put its financial affairs in order it will not be able to support the deficit.

The crisis comes against a background of growing staff discontent. A number of the polytechnic's branches of the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education have passed motions of no confidence in the rector.

## New meaning of Mean Time

Time and tide waits for no man. But at Bradford University it hangs about in some rather odd places.

Campus clocks are only just reverting from a cunning manoeuvre by administrators to save paying overtime during the



# Teacher training cuts may reach 20%

by Patricia Santinelli

Cuts in the eventual size of initial teacher training may be nearer 20 per cent than the 10 per cent originally recommended by the Government's advisory body on teacher education.

This possibility emerged as the Government decided to cut 1982 intakes to Postgraduate Certificate of Education courses by 20 per cent instead of the proposed 25 per cent.

In a letter to Dr Clifford Butler, chairman of the Advisory Committee on the Supply and Education of Teachers, Secretary of State for Education and Science Sir Keith Joseph says it would not be right at this stage to opt firmly for 10 per cent or any other figure.

This, he stresses, is partly due to uncertainties about future demand

and partly because it would appear that a reduction by 20 per cent might still yield enough teachers to meet demand in the late 1980s.

He says: "I would therefore ask your committee to explore the implications of reducing the scale of output by alternative figures within the 10 to 20 per cent range."

Sir Keith also asks the committee to consider whether there should be an increase in the number of primary PGCE courses with a consequent reduction in secondary courses, in view of the limited numbers seeking places on BEd courses and the predicted demand for primary school teachers.

Explaining why the Government has rejected the 25 per cent cut in intake to PGCE courses, Sir Keith says this would be too severe in its

institutional effects, particularly as there is now evidence of a likely increased demand for primary teachers in the late 1980s.

"I am therefore asking my officials in consultation with the University Grants Committee to seek to implement a reduction of 20 per cent in the PGCE. This will be without prejudice to the size of that intake in subsequent years," Sir Keith says.

This statement confirms the belief that Sir Keith is concerned about any base for future expansion, particularly in the PGCE, being destroyed. It does not, however, make clear whether the operation of cuts will be for equal misery, or will be shared.

He warns that in 1982 it would not be right for institutions to recruit more students than in 1980 or 1981. "And within that limitation we

think it would be right for the institutions concerned only to recruit intending secondary teachers to courses intended for teachers in the main subjects," Sir Keith says.

This provision together and greater selectivity of candidates on their suitability for teaching, should achieve a small reduction in the actual intake of BEd students in 1982. Sir Keith warns that savings resulting from reducing the numbers of students on initial training may not be switched to in-service training.

Intakes to BEd courses last year were 40 per cent down on the 9,000 target. Final figures for this year are not yet available but there are indications that in spite of minor recovery, intakes will still be about 30 per cent below target.

## Academic book prices double

The average price of British academic books has more than doubled since 1975 and now stands at nearly £12 a copy according to figures just published.

The report from the Centre for Library Management at Loughborough University shows the average price has increased from £5.57 in 1975 to £11.71 in January 1981.

The most expensive books are science and technology subjects, chemistry averaging £24.27, physics £17.43 and zoology £17.37.

In the social sciences the most costly subjects are law books (£17.16) and economics (£11.26) while the humanities history books average £8.60 and English literature £6.16.

Altogether the proportion of books costing less than £8.00 has fallen from 80 per cent to 40 per cent since 1975.

Average prices of British academic books January-June 1981, CLA Publications, Loughborough University of Technology.

## Poly staff fight transfer

Kilburn Polytechnic staff are fighting plans by the London borough of Brent to close its engineering science department and transfer its work to Willesden College. The move is designed to improve opportunities for 16 to 19-year-olds. Kilburn staff fear it will have the opposite effect. They say 44 per cent of their students are now following courses for which there are no entry requirements and that transfer would diminish opportunities for low achievers.

## Leeds link-up

A formal agreement establishing a ten-year period of academic cooperation between Leeds University and the Karl-Marx University Leipzig was signed this week by Professor William Walsh, acting vice-chancellor of Leeds, and Professor Lothar Rohmann, rector of the German university.

## Film festival

Next year's National Student Film Festival, sponsored by Sony, is open to all students with access to movie or video equipment. Films should be up to 30 minutes in length and application forms can be obtained from the National Union of Students.

## New scholarships

The government of North Rhine-Westphalia has awarded 150-month scholarships for British students taking Hull College of Higher Education's new honours BA degree in European Business Studies. The degree is a joint venture between the college and Fachhochschule Bonn, and the scholarship is to be established to help students with expenses during the two years of the course which they spend in West Germany.

## Olympic show

An exhibition on the ancient Olympic Games opens today at Liverpool University. The centre piece is a scale model of the site where the games first began and there will also be a slide show and other displays.

## Guide to HE

The latest edition of a Department of Education guide to higher education is now available. *Higher Education: Finding Your Way* covers degree courses and their alternatives, and contains a directory of institutions, and lists of interviews, grants and emergency procedures.

## CNA course

Hull College of Higher Education is to start the first Council for National Academic Awards validated certificate course for workers with mentally handicapped next January.

# UGC admits Keele blunder

by Ngao Crequer

The University Grants Committee has admitted to Keele that when it was planning its cuts it thought quite wrongly that the university wanted to reduce its number of social scientists by 30 per cent.

But Dr Edward Parkes, chairman of the UGC, has told Dr David Harrison, the vice-chancellor, that the mistake had no effect on the decision to propose major cutbacks in this area.

As a result of the mistake, a senior official from the UGC is to visit Keele next week but the university has been told there will be no change in its allocation.

The mistake arose because the UGC made some judgments based on the number, not load, of students. In most universities there is little difference between the two ways of measuring student numbers but at Keele, because of its high

incidence of subsidiary courses and approaches cannot be reconciled. In fact the difference amounted to about 440 students and so the error is a staggering one at such a small university which is one of the five most badly hit.

Dr Harrison has written to Dr Parkes to say that their widespread fears about the effect of the mistake have not been allayed. "It was frankly admitted to us that the social studies sub-committee had thought that Keele wanted to reduce its number of social scientists by 30 per cent anyway," he said.

In fact the expected reduction was negligible, as could have been seen at once from the student load figures for 1979-80. "It is hard at Keele to imagine that the deliberations of the social studies sub-committee on cuts in numbers could have been completely uninfluenced by an error of this magnitude."

"Indeed we find it extraordinary that the sub-committee could have envisaged without checking that such a sudden massive shift from social sciences was even possible in any university."

"However sound the data base used by the main committee, it seems to us beyond doubt that important decisions were taken by the UGC and/or its sub-committees on the basis of statistical information that was at best inadequate and at worst positively misleading."

"A major element of the UGC's advice to us of July 1 has, we consider, been totally undermined by the mistake on student numbers. The advice (on joint honours in science and on Russian studies) is not at all related apparently to the devastating cuts in student numbers and in recurrent grants."

Professor Peter Bromley, chairman of the social science sub-committee was unavailable for comment.

## Body about to be unveiled

by David Jobbins

Final arrangements for the national body which will assume at least temporary control of polytechnic and major college funding are expected to be announced next week.

Local education authority leaders will meet Mr William Waldegrave, under secretary for higher education, on Monday to agree on the details following last week's decision by the Council of Local Education Authorities to accept the interim arrangements in principle.

As reported in last week's *THES*, the original Department of Education and Science proposals for the interim arrangements have been significantly refined. It remains considerably closer to the option for the long-term scheme set out by the CLEA in the July Green Paper, but the key question of the membership of the main body remains unresolved.

The Standing Conference of Principals and Directors of Colleges and Institutes in Higher Education this week expressed its concern at the distinction drawn between DES and "membership" and institutional "participation."

"This distinction will significantly reduce the credibility and effectiveness of the advisory body at a time when those responsible for the provision of higher education in the public sector must work together in the best interests of the service," it says in its response to the Green Paper.

The organization also maintains that institutions should remain free under their instruments and articles of government to determine how spending should be distributed within the budget set by the central body.

The UGC has called on Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education, to drop the DES model set out in the Green Paper which effectively nationalized more than 90 major institutions.

It backs a national body based firmly on the CLEA proposals, warning that the alternative would "create an artificial and highly damaging division between advanced and non-advanced further education."

Although its education committee favours the retention of local authority involvement and accountability, it has called for further consideration of how to achieve an acceptable balance between local accountability, institutional autonomy, central control, and adequate representation of trade union interests on the national body.

But the Association of Polytechnic Teachers has told Sir Keith it favours the DES proposal as an opportunity for a "coordinated, efficient and educationally excellent sector of higher education."

The decision has to be approved by Congress. It will mean a net loss of student places in science. Proposals to vacate building space to cut costs will be finalised later this year.

## Three-year BEd degree is likely to be phased out

by Patricia Santinelli

Three-year Bachelor of Education courses are likely to be phased out by the Council for National Academic Awards if it accepts the recommendations of a working party which met this week.

The party was set up by the council's education committee in July under the chairmanship of Mr Derek Birley, director of Ulster Polytechnic, to look at the whole future of the BEd.

It is known to have written a report strongly recommending the retention of BEd courses as a means of qualifying for intending teachers, but with a standard length of four years leading to an honours degree, and the phasing out of three-year courses as soon as feasible.

Members of the working party believe that proposals for validation by the council which continue to offer both three and four year programmes should not take the form of a degree plus an additional year for honours, but that the two awards

should be based on separate programmes which diverge before the third year of the course.

The council's education committee advised colleges last year that they should consider, when courses fell due for renewal, revising their schemes in the form of either a three or four year programme.

Currently 21 out of 47 BEd courses recruiting in 1981 have no outlet after three years, and it is likely that more than half the total number of approved courses will be in this position by 1982.

One of the major reasons behind the move for a four-year programme with no break-off point at three years, is that there has been great doubt about the professional relevance of the fourth year in such programmes.

Moreover a norm of a four-year programme for the BEd would finally ensure that criticisms about its status in comparison to a BA/BSc honours degrees plus a one year postgraduate course as training for teaching would be removed.

Ironically the new party has opted for the same recommendation as the deposed body. Its main reasons are that a solution can be negotiated quickly and that it represents the best means of protecting the future of higher education in the district, as well as having the inspectorate's support and therefore the likely approval of the Department of Education and Science.

Another advantage outlined in the report is that a larger higher education unit would offer more scope for economies. The report points out that in the current year the authority will lose £250,000 which makes it the first time a net contributor to the AFE pool than a net receiver.

The merger would also maximise the chance of the authority retaining the ownership of higher education provision in the district and collecting virtually all the area's higher education work in one institution.

These advantages were seen to balance out disadvantages such as less financial control over the services provided by the new college and the resulting loss of institutional identity for staff at Ilkley.

Although the Bradford and Ilkley colleges appear to be in favour of reorganization, it is reported that there have been sharp exchanges in committee between the two principals over matters of policy and future management styles.

But while Mr John Mackenzie, principal of Ilkley College, is said to be in favour of reorganization and to believe that the issues are not about personalities, rumours remain that he is extremely upset about recent events and has decided to leave the district. His name is being persistently linked with the new Bolton Institute of Higher Education. An announcement about the appointment of a director was expected last week.

His departure would put into question the appointment of a principal for the new institution. It was originally expected that Mr Eric Robinson, principal of Bradford College, would head the new college with Mr Mackenzie as vice principal.

## Money-saving formula

by Robin McKie

Science Correspondent

Chemistry departments in universities are going into the second-hand business in an effort to save some cash.

The Heads of Chemistry Departments Committee is to coordinate an equipment exchange which should be under way by next February.

Instruments no longer being used in universities are often left to rot, bought by dealers at 'awful' prices or given to local schools, said committee chairman Professor Montague Frey.

Now lists of second-hand equipment will be circulated round universities with suggested prices for each item.

Although the University Grants Committee has protected equipment budgets, current cutbacks are still causing severe difficulties for chemistry wishing to replace instruments and machines.

Professor Frey said: "A chemist may be carrying out a particular research project and could require a new generation of a particular device. The old one could then be sold for general use in another department or to another research team working in a similar field."

Although, the scheme might mean more equipment would stay within the university system, with less being available for schools, he thought it would still be possible to provide some old equipment for use in classrooms.

Mr Philip Whitehead, Labour MP for Derby North, is to write to Mr William Waldegrave, Bristol MP and minister for higher education, challenging him to approve the vice-chancellor's course of action.

At Sussex University a meeting attended by more than 1000 students and staff rejected university proposals and carried a motion of no confidence in the vice-chancellor, Sir Denis Wilson, inviting him to resign. They also called for the closure of the university on November 18 to allow attendance at the mass demonstration.

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The education faculty, one of the oldest in Britain, has firm links in the local community and attracts £500,000 every year from non-UGC sources. The faculty has about 50 staff, 230 PGCE students, 210 places in advanced studies, 320 BEd students and runs 5,000 short courses.

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The education faculty, one of the oldest in Britain, has firm links in the local community and attracts £500,000



## Poly graduates find less work

by Sandra Hempel

Output of first-degree students from polytechnics was up by 2.5 per cent to 19,432 compared with 1979, but those entering permanent or short-term employment dropped by 9.8 per cent, leaving 12.5 per cent of the total out of work, according to the latest figures from the Committee of Directors of Polytechnics.

Fewer students qualified with higher diplomas, a 2.6 per cent drop in 1979 - while numbers believed to be unemployed went up by 53.4 per cent.

Those going into research and further academic studies dropped while those entering vocational training went up - 20 per cent of graduates and 30.5 per cent of diplomas.

The implications of the national economic position are reflected in the figures, says the CDP, and while polytechnic graduates are clearly seen to be affected by the economy and Government education policy, they are making intelligent responses.

The most significant movement among subject groups was that for education where last year's rise was largely reversed and 470 fewer women graduated. This reflected the phasing out of BED courses in the latter part of the 1970s, the survey says.

Growth subject groups for graduates were: science (up by 9.5 per cent); social studies (7 per cent); and vocational studies (17 per cent). Numbers of graduates in computing, chemistry, management and business studies, economics, accounting, architecture and town and country planning courses all went up.

The output of diplomates from catering and institutional management courses continued its upward trend of recent years but while numbers qualifying in chemistry and mechanical engineering went up, there were fewer in management and business studies than in 1979, and the survey sees signs that the demand for students with these qualifications is not being fully met.

Numbers of polytechnic graduates from sandwich courses went up - by 565 to 5,545 - and 18.8 per cent of them were women. The sandwich output was 28.5 per cent of the total, compared with 26.3 per cent in 1979. Almost two-thirds of the engineers, two-fifths of the scientists and nearly one-third of the graduates in social studies followed sandwich courses. Graduates from sandwich courses were more likely to enter employment in the UK.

The number of graduates entering permanent UK employment went down by 6.9 per cent with education seeing a drop of 23.7 per cent over its 1979 figures and engineering graduates in permanent UK employment went down by 9.9 per cent - a cause for some concern, says the survey.

"First Destinations of Polytechnic Students Qualifying in 1980 published by the Committee of Directors of Polytechnics 309 Regent Street, London W1R 7PE. Price £7.50p

## Eysenck causes a dilemma

by David Jobbins

Leeds Polytechnic students were yesterday deciding whether or not to invite Professor Hans Eysenck, the controversial psychologist, to lecture to them.

Last month Professor Eysenck cancelled a lecture he was due to give to the polytechnic's psychology faculty after threats of disruption by political activists.

He had intended to speak on the psychological basis of personality. "I was warned there were some hotheads who seemed to be opposed to the whole thing," he said this week. "It seemed that people from outside the department had heard of the lecture and were going to disrupt it."

"I thought it would be better to cancel it and not run the risk of violence or disruption."

The affair has thrown the student union into turmoil. The union executive expressed regret that the invitation had issued and warned that the professor's views on race and intelligence would damage good multi-racial relations at the polytechnic.

Last week a general meeting decided to invite him back and instructed the executive to apologize publicly for its remarks. But other students called a special general meeting scheduled for yesterday to rescind the decision and withdraw the invitation.

The students' dilemma is likely to be solved for them. Professor Eysenck indicated this week that he would be unlikely to accept an invitation from the student union.

"The union has no control over a few extremists who can disrupt a meeting without difficulty," said Eysenck. "The union has agreed to me coming, but just four or five people started singing and disrupted the proceedings so much I could not speak. The union is really powerless in this situation."

"It is the obverse of what one expects in an academic situation. It reminds me very much of times in Hitler's Germany."

## Malthus got his sums right

by Paul Flather

Robert Malthus's theories on population growth have been proved largely right, thanks to twentieth century computers, modern statistics, the radio, and an army of local historians who have visited 10,000 sites.

That is the conclusion of a massive piece of research, 800-pages long containing 217 tables and 111 figures analysing for the first time the population history of England, the first industrial nation, between 1541 and 1871.

Malthus wrote in 1798 in his famous *Essay on the Principle of Population* that the agricultural techniques of his day could not support the growth of population. But, as people rarely starved to death, he concluded population growth slowed as economic conditions worsened.

He believed there was a minimum standard of living below which people were unwilling to marry and have children. Malthus called this link between declining standards of living and marriage the "preventive check". Malthus could never test his theory. He believed the "check" worked very slowly over long historical oscillations, too weak "to be remarked by superficial observers." It was crying out for a computer.

So he sketched out a research programme which would include the proper measurement of changes in population, in standards of living, and in social customs.

Using this as a premise a group funded by the Social Science Research Council set out to test Malthus by collecting the millions of parish registers and burials recorded in parish registers.

The group led by Mr Peter Laslett and Dr Roger Schofield of Cambridge, and Professor Anthony Wrigley from the London School of Economics, appealed on radio to local historians for help and met an overwhelming response.

The group developed a new statistics technique of "back projection" to infer general population characteristics from a sample of 404 parishes.

The result is that the Reverend Malthus, subject of much criticism, was right after all: population growth is determined more by changes in fertility than mortality, and these were caused almost entirely by variations in the timing and occurrence of marriage, which in turn responded to real wage fluctuations.

The group now plans further research on marriage and household structures, and has appealed to its army of local historians to look at illegitimacy records. "The Population History of England 1541-1871, £45, published by Edward Arnold.

Sir James Dunnett  
Sir James Dunnett is chairman of the postgraduate training board of the Social Science Research Council and not as stated in *The Times* last week.

## Exchange boost for students of Russian

by Ngaio Crequer

Teachers of Russian have scored a significant breakthrough resulting in 50 per cent more places being available for British students at Soviet universities.

In the renegotiation of the cultural agreement between Britain and the Soviet Union which occurs every two years, the British have managed to push up the places for British students from 64 to 96.

But more significantly the British, against competition from all over the world, have secured a big increase in places at the Pushkin Institute in Moscow which specializes in teaching Russian to foreigners.

In the last academic year 14 places for British students were provided. This year 15 students will be able to attend for a full year and 50 students, in two groups of 25, will attend for five months each.

On top of this there are private agreements between British and Soviet universities, such as the one at Manchester, which has taken over a Salford scheme, and which has secured an arrangement with authorities in Minsk.

Representatives of almost all Russian departments in universities and polytechnics have formed a new Rus-

sian Language Undergraduate Study Committee. This will be responsible for the negotiation and administration, on a national scale, with exchanges with Soviet universities and the Pushkin Institute.

The increase in places has heartened Russianists who received a body blow when the University Grants Committee recommended a severe reduction in their departments, which was confirmed in the July cuts.

The problem of exchange facilities for students has been a long-standing sore for these departments, which had lobbied British and Russian ministries because of the problems of teaching a foreign language without gaining automatic access to the country.

But it is also apparent that the Russians, by suddenly becoming far more flexible, want to present themselves in the best political light. The cultural agreement also provides for a number of Russian teachers, as well as students, to come to Britain to study.

It is ironic that one of the two departments singled out by the UGC report for expansion in Russian studies at Bristol University, has been proposed as a possible victim of the cuts by the vice chancellor.



Strathclyde University student president Mr Tam McTurk (right) greets some of the 75 Norwegian students attending Strathclyde this session. Leading industrialists in Norway feel that more graduates in engineering and technology are needed than home universities and colleges can supply, and have set up a foundation to provide a large number of annual scholarships to foreign universities over the next ten years. In mid-July a delegation from Strathclyde met representatives of the foundation in Oslo, resulting in their recruiting the students for courses in engineering, marine technology, computer science and physics.

## Medical services 'at risk'

by Olga Wojtas  
Scottish Correspondent

The principal of Aberdeen University, Professor George McNicol, says local medical provision could be jeopardized because of the University Grants Committee cuts.

The folly of what had been imposed on the university was best illustrated in the medical faculty, he told a graduation ceremony.

Aberdeen is the second worst hit Scottish university, with a cut in its recurrent grant of 17 per cent, and the university's planning committee has said the medical faculty must make savings of £500,000, although the UGC expects the present student intake of 120 to be maintained.

Aberdeen's medical teaching staff provide a quarter of the hospital-based clinical and laboratory services for the local community. The cuts would produce a major reduction in that contribution, Professor McNicol said.

To meet the new level of funding, about 30 medical and more than 20 technical posts would have to be axed. An internal planning committee memorandum strongly implies that this could not be achieved without compulsory redundancies.

The shortfall in the university's contribution to local medical provision would have to be met by the health authority.

Professor McNicol asked: "Is it possible to imagine an outcome more stupid than the disruption of a long established, highly valued and skilled service in our students and the community, merely to have costs transferred to the health authority when our service has been terminated?"

If the health board did not very rapidly fill the gap, the health services to the community would be substantially reduced.

"I give a measured warning to the Government that unless their decision is speedily reversed, the very least we can expect is a period of disruption and disorganization, and indeed a significant long-term fall in the standards of medical care provided for our community is the almost inevitable outcome of their present policies."

Professor McNicol is today meeting members of the UGC to discuss a reduction in Aberdeen's cuts.

## CNAA offers to help Open Tech

The Council for National Academic Awards is willing to serve on the proposed steering body for the Open Tech and will help in providing the clarification that it believes the proposed programmes need.

In a response to the Manpower Services Commission's consultative document on the Open Tech, the CNAA welcomes the development of the use of open learning systems, the recognition of groups whose training opportunities should be widened, the encouragement of part-time provision and the general broadening of opportunities.

The CNAA says there are two ways that institutions of higher education in the public sector might be drawn into the scheme. They might be used as agents to provide expertise or develop particular resources or they could be responsible for a total scheme. Although the CNAA says it would not be directly involved in these activities, its five-yearly review of institutions might be affected.

On curriculum, the CNAA says that mature students in particular who may be returning to learning after a long absence, will have general learning needs. Many such students have been successful in degree courses after first taking courses in study skills at colleges outside the higher education sector.

"It is important that the demands placed upon such students are realistic," the CNAA says.

On resources and management, it says that the MSC paper pays little attention to cost, although this needs considerable attention if open learning systems are to be really open and accessible.

Until or unless fees and grants are made available, financing a student's place will remain an obstacle. "Open Tech students are likely to be just those who would find it difficult to be self-supporting."

Staff development programmes must be available to teachers and administrators and should aim to increase competence in areas such as the matching of curricula to the needs of different kinds of students, the use of new technological aids, assessment techniques and evaluation of training programmes and the organizational implications of such relatively open access curricula.

Courses leading to the CNAA's diploma, in professional studies in education or the CNAA postgraduate diploma in educational technology, may provide appropriate vehicles for such development.

The course, started in 1945, was designed for overseas students who could not afford the time or money for the three-year degree course. In addition to it a ten-week course to capture the flavour of British university life has now been introduced for American students who cannot afford a full year.

The idea has been ruled out in the past because of doubts over its academic validity, but financial expediency has led to 30 students being introduced for the 1980 Michaelmas term. This term there are 47, and 60 students will be admitted for the Lent term.

This expansion in numbers was designed to compensate for the fall expected in overseas students for the three-year degree course when the government would the overseas students fees last year.

This year the undergraduate intake

## Extra cash plan to protect training

by Patricia Santinelli

A plan to give local authorities exceptional extra funding in exchange for a commitment to in-service training of all Youth Opportunities teaching staff is being considered by the Manpower Services Commission.

The proposals which are outlined in a confidential draft memorandum prepared by the special programmes and training services division of the commission would operate for three years backdated to September.

Currently fees paid by the MSC for courses include an automatic element for in-service training. But the major expansion of YOP to embrace one in two school leavers is imposing new spending burdens on authorities and the commission fears that in-service training might suffer, at a time when, with the influx of new staff, it is even more vital.

"Moreover, the pressures are not yet at an end," the memorandum says. "Improvements in the quality of YOP to which FE is an important contributor, may well raise further questions within authorities about the adequacy of their arrangements in the key areas of staff training and curriculum development for tutors engaged in YOP work."

The proposed extra financial support would be paid as a fixed non-negotiable supplement to the prevailing YOP tuition rates. It would be paid at the rate of 5p per trainee hour for general and practical workshop rates and 60p for the social and life skills and outreach rates.

For the current academic year, enhanced rates on this basis would range from a minimum of £1.32 per trainee hour to a maximum of £2.10 for social and life skills class hours. These would be paid on an I.e.a.s. wide basis and it would not be possible to enter into negotiations for individual courses or colleges or particular groups of staff.

To qualify for these rates each I.e.a.s. would have to satisfy the MSC that all its YOP tutors were involved in in-service training, and curricular development and aware of the commitment and arrangements that these imply.

According to the plan, I.e.a.s. would have to provide a minimum of five days of training for each staff member throughout the three years. But a tutor spending most of his week on such work would be expected to have 25 days or more in-service training. This might include up to 10 days to recognize the demands of curriculum development and cover preparation of teaching materials and devising new programmes.

If the plan is officially approved, I.e.a.s. will be given until March to apply for the supplementary rate.

## Inner city studies 'narrow'

by Paul Flather

Government research on inner cities - which has so far cost £1.5m over four years - is said to be too narrow in a new report by the Social Science Research Council.

The council's inner cities working party urges the Department of Environment in its report published last week to review the future direction of its research effort in favour of a broader "metropolitan" context.

The working party, chaired by Professor Peter Hall, professor of geography at Reading University, says that an exclusive focus on the inner city is misconceived and misleading, although it may be a useful starting point.

Publication of the report in a year when inner city problems have been prominent in public debate, marks another step in the SSRC's avowed

## Students hold work-ins

Students at Glasgow University have voted to hold evening work-ins at their social sciences library in protest against university cutbacks.

The opening hours of the major faculty library have been cut back by four evenings a week as a result of a freeze on a post caused by cuts in the library service.

A student meeting maintained that more than 1,500 students used the library, and it was vital that they had access to the books. The library service has been trying to ensure that the books are duplicated in the university undergraduate reading room and has already been buying books from the university bookshop to this end.

However, this was criticized by the students who claimed this would cost around £5,000, while a part-time librarian would cost only £1,000.

It is not yet clear what action the university will take over the work-ins, which were due to start this week, but students were told last month that the cost of protecting property would be deducted from the grant to the students' representative council.

Rallies have been held this week by students at both Dundee and St. Andrew's universities protesting against the cuts.

A delegation from St. Andrew's headed by principal Dr Steven Watson which is to meet representatives of the University Grants Committee takes with it a resolution passed by a mass meeting of staff and students deploring the UGC recommendations to ax courses in music, linguistics and archaeology.

being made to apply scarce resources in the most effective way" and endorses "the concentration of certain activities and degree courses in fewer universities".

"One of the major obstacles in carrying through such a programme is the contractual guarantee of life-long employment given to academics as it makes the removal or redeployment of staff exceedingly difficult or prohibitively expensive," says the BJC.

"This kind of protection of academic freedom today is a costly and restrictive irrelevance; we now have a society which gives almost unrestricted freedom of expression and safeguards of employment through a considerable amount of legislation and independent statutory agencies".

The BJC is concerned, however, about the training of engineers and technologists. It says that substantially more places should be made available for them, even at the expense of other disciplines. It calls for an increase in sandwich courses geared to the needs of industry.

where school or university classes will be able to call up sophisticated programmes or complex databases cheaply and efficiently.

However current financial restrictions could seriously affect how schools and higher education centres become involved.

An internal review points out that computer grid which provides thousands of frames of information on converted television screens - is likely to face teacher resistance because it is viewed as a relatively useless and expensive teaching aid and because teachers "are generally very naive about technology".

It is now relatively cheap - about £140 to convert an ordinary television to take Prestel, which then can be used not just as a teaching or lecturing aid but as a method of providing up-to-date careers information. Recently the Universities Central Council on Admissions ran an

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# Threat to Fulbright exchange

by Peter David

WASHINGTON

America's international academic exchange programmes, including the famous 35-year-old Fulbright Programme, will face collapse next year because the administration intends to protect the United States propaganda effort from the full impact of President Reagan's new 12 per cent budget cut.

The academic exchanges and the nation's major information efforts, like the Voice of America broadcasting station and a new anti-Soviet campaign called Project Truth, are both funded by the same federal agency - the United States International Communication Agency.

A detailed analysis of the 12 per cent cut, submitted by USICA to Congress last week, argues that as the United States "most vital weapon in the arsenal of ideas" the agency - the United States International Communication Agency, cushioning the voice of America as much as possible.

The analysis claims that USICA's real spending had declined by 30 per cent over the last 15 years and its staff dropped from 11,604 to an authorized level of only 7,513.

"Therefore, as an emergency measure, we have allocated a major share of the reduction to the exchange programme on the assumption that a significant part of this very valuable grant programme can be deferred for a year or two and more readily than our more staff-intensive programmes," the USICA report says.

"We regret the circumstances that necessitate this action but feel it is preferable to a generalized cutback of many already weakened programmes."

The 1982 cut which USICA has pencilled in for academic exchanges and the Fulbright Programme is 53 per cent, a reduction of \$25.6 million. The agency's analysis concedes



Senator Lowell Weicker: "Educational exchange is a better investment than military aid."

that the cut would reduce the number of countries participating in Fulbright from 128 to 59, and activities in the surviving countries would have to be scaled down.

The threat to Fulbright has dismayed America's university community and academic pressure groups, taken by surprise by the agency's budget analysis, are now mobilizing to block the measure in Congress.

A statement by the American Council on Education says the cut would reduce academic exchanges to a "minimal" level. "Such a cut would eliminate academic exchange in most of the developing world. Exchanges with countries of great strategic importance such as Mexico and Venezuela in Latin America; Indonesia, China and Taiwan in East Asia; almost all of Africa would be seriously jeopardized."

"Academic exchange with Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union might be eliminated. Though the programmes in East Europe are not large, they represent one of the few avenues of

communication for the United States to that part of the world."

USICA's own analysis makes no attempt to minimize the impact of the proposed reduction. It says the cut will increase tremendously the ever-widening disparity between the number of academic scholarships awarded by the United States and the Soviet Union.

"As a direct result of these cuts, the number of academic programme grantees will be reduced by at least 40 per cent. In addition, host country contributions to the programme, currently at \$9 million, are expected to fall off sharply in response to the diminished American commitment, leading to a further significant decrease in the number of scholars exchanged. Important diplomatic relationships and goodwill built up over three decades will be damaged."

Although some smaller exchange programmes, like the International Student Exchange Project and the Humphrey Fellowship, will be eliminated entirely by the proposed cut, opponents of the measure are focusing their campaign on the prestigious Fulbright Programme.

Since its establishment in 1946 Fulbright has been the United States' principal method of exchanging students and scholars with the rest of the world. An estimated 130,000 "Fulbrighters" have moved between the United States and the rest of the world at a cost to America of about \$600m.

Defenders of the programme have already reported some initial successes in preventing the cut passing through Congress. Senator Lowell Weicker, chairman of the senate appropriations sub-committee dealing with the State Department, has gone on record in defence of international exchanges.

"The educational exchange programmes of USICA are a far better investment in American foreign policy than our foreign military aid programme," he said.



The rice harvest: biotechnology could mean four crops a year instead of three.

## Canadian initiative to boost aid for the Third World

by Thomas Land

A Canadian molecular biologist has persuaded a dozen of his world-renowned colleagues and a United Nations organization to establish an international research centre in biotechnology specifically to serve the needs of the developing regions. Their agreement, reached in Vienna, promises healthier crops and cattle around the hungry belt of the globe and progress towards the eradication of diseases like malaria.

The idea was originally advanced by Dr Saran Nang of the National Research Council of Canada. It is now being pursued in a big way by a committee of scientists representing some of the best brains in biotechnology as well as the UN's Industrial Development Organization, the International Federation of Institutes for Advanced Study and the Club de Geneve.

Genetic engineering is expected to make a big impact within the foreseeable future in many spheres of technology including energy such as biomass and fuel alcohol, fermentation embracing pharmaceuticals, as well as fertilizers, pesticides, plant genetics and even mineral processing.

The Vienna agreement was reached at a private three-day consultation earlier this year, chaired by Professor R. Wu of Cornell University in the United States and attended by "a dozen world-renowned scientists," says UNIDO. Dr Nang was rapporteur. The idea has gained further ground since then; a formal announcement may perhaps be made after a much broader meeting planned for February in Paris.

Worldwide escalation of interest in biotechnology began about a decade ago. The biggest acceleration has taken place within the past five years. A recent report issued in Ottawa by a federal task force on biotechnology called for a national master plan to support its development in the nation's future industrial and economic strength. Indeed, the direction of future trends can be assessed by such outstanding current achievements as the development of

the first safe vaccines against foot and mouth disease by genetic engineers at the University of Heidelberg, the Federal Research Institute for Animal Virus Diseases and the Max Planck Institute for Biochemistry in Germany.

Since his student days at Punjab University, Dr Nang has dreamed of bringing the immense potential benefits of biotechnology to the developing regions. "During the next five years it will be possible to grow better crops," he said. "In the case of rice for example - which has a protein - a gene can be inserted to produce a hybrid that tastes like rice but has a lot of protein. We can even manipulate its genes to speed up growth, so you can have four crops a year instead of three."

He is now engaged in the development of wheats which require no fertilizer. By incorporating nitrogen-fixing genes from bacteria that grow on the roots of spinach plants into wheat seed, the wheat - like spinach - could generate its own ammonia fertilizer. This would make developing countries virtually self-sufficient in fertilizers - eliminating present annual imports of more than eight million tons.

More than 1,000 million people are exposed to the malaria parasite which has grown increasingly resistant to conventional drugs. Biotechnology is leading to the development of a vaccine to check that killer disease. Similar advances are being made with cholera and hepatitis vaccines as well as insulin and anti-cancer drugs.

The question specialists tried to answer at the UNIDO meeting was how to bring these benefits to the developing countries where their impact would be immense. Complete laboratory equipment is not necessary because gene splicing is based on simple biochemistry. Dr Nang and his colleagues insist that "we have to explain to the developing countries that the world is entering a genetic revolution for which they should train their young people in biotechnology. They must take advantage of these advancements or else they will be left out."

## Overseas news

### Rights campaigners claim a victory

A group of 50 Hungarian academics has won a major victory for human rights - the release from a Budapest psychiatric hospital of activist Tibor Pakh.

Dr Pakh, a former lawyer first became involved in the human rights movement 25 years ago, when he attempted to appeal against death sentences imposed on student activists from the revolution of October-November 1956. For this he was sentenced to 15 years in prison.

His release, shortly before the end of his term, was effected by Amnesty International. As a face-saving measure, however, the Hungarian authorities attributed his release to psychological ill health, for which he afterwards received a small disability pension. This alleged "disability" has not, however, prevented him for the last ten years from earning his living as a translator of technical Russian.

Since 1976, Dr Pakh has become increasingly interested in the growth of the democratic movement in Poland. In 1980 he took part in a protest fast in the church at Podkowa Lesna, just outside Warsaw, which was organized by Polish scholars and students in support of Wlodek Chojnicki, a young scholar then in detention facing charges of operating an underground printing press.

During the last year, Dr Pakh has written several open letters to the Hungarian authorities, protesting against their support of the Soviet line on the rise of Solidarity. Speaking in the name of age-old Polish-Hungarian friendship, Dr Pakh asserted that the Hungarian man in the street was in full sympathy with the Solidarity movement, and that the official line was based on Soviet misinformation.

On October 4, during the last days of the Solidarity conference in Gdansk, Dr Pakh attempted to travel to Poland. He was stopped at the Hungarian frontier and his passport confiscated. When the authorities refused to return his papers he went to the university church in Budapest

and began a protest fast. Before doing so, he telephoned a friend in London, and said that he felt the confiscation of his papers was the first step of a new wave of oppression in Hungary, probably instigated on Soviet instructions as a face-saving measure to offset Moscow's obvious inability to control the Polish situation.

On October 9, Dr Pakh was picked up by the police and taken to a mental hospital where he was fed intravenously and given heavy doses of psychotropic drugs, including haloperidol, the classic "cure" for dissidents in the Soviet Union.

This kind of psychological repression of dissidents has so far been virtually unknown in Hungary and triggered a storm of protest. More than 50 academics - including mathematician Miklos Sulyok, a nephew of deputy prime minister Gyorgy Aczel, writer, Gyorgy Konrad, and the philosopher Janos Kis signed a sharp letter of protest to the Hungarian authorities. They also maintained a constant stream of visitors to the hospital, to the considerable embarrassment of the official who wished to hush up the confinement. In Poland, Solidarity also began a campaign of support.

On October 26 Dr Pakh was released, formally on "re-adjustment leave". He immediately lodged a new protest demanding material and psychological compensation, including the refund of his ticket to Poland and the money already changed into Polish currency which without his confiscated identity documents he is unable to claim. The Hungarian authorities explained that his passport had been confiscated in view of his undisclosed criminal record. This point Dr Pakh, as a lawyer was quick to refute, as inconsistent with the allegations that he was psychologically incompetent.

Dr Pakh's future remains uncertain. His personal desire is the visit of a Western psychiatrist who could give an independent assessment of his mental state.

### Belgium faces dilemma over tenure and vacancies

from Lionel Cohen

Competition by more academics for fewer vacant tenured posts is making nonsense of traditional systems of regular university teaching appointments for promising post-graduates. Yet without this regular renewal, a process of ossification would develop and gradually destroy the function of Belgian universities as a vital source of industrial, administrative and scientific innovation.

This was the message of rector Dr P. de Somer at the annual academic inauguration of the University of Leuven. Dr de Somer, recently re-elected for a further five years - "definitely my last term of office" - drew attention to the plight of the temporary university assistant lecturers who, in spite of the chronic shortage of permanent posts, still have to divide their time between a substantial teaching load and an intensive doctoral research programme.

Dr de Somer also commented on the evidence of division between the French and Flemish-speaking universities which had been observed over the last year, particularly in the creation of new, smaller, co-ordinating councils for the separate university interests. Under present economic conditions, this weakened the bargaining power of the Flemish language non-state universities, especially when it came to sharing out the higher education subsidies of central government.

With more funds available, the particular problems to which Leuven rector drew attention are of less immediate concern to State-run academic institutions. But there are growing signs of support for the Leuven viewpoint from the comments of who would also like to see changes in rules governing the share-out of national finance for higher academic posts.

meanwhile gained valuable work experience. According to Dr de Somer, one visible effect of this was that an increasing amount of postgraduate research now being undertaken either had "little relevance" or failed to hold the interest of the researcher long enough to ensure completion. This, led to further wastage - in human terms and economic terms. An urgent re-examination of the rules requiring research qualifications for certain university teaching appointments was now needed. This should be coupled with a provision under which doctoral research students could be entirely freed from teaching responsibilities.

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### Rules change in contest for places

from Bernard Kennedy

ANKARA

The time-honoured method of allocating places in Turkish universities by means of a national entrance examination is to be slightly changed next year. As well as marks obtained in the exam, the University Selection and Placement Committee will also take into account results obtained during the last few years of school.

This apparently minor change, announced at the beginning of the academic year by the committee's president Professor Altin Gunalp, underlines the increasing pressure for university places.

For the first time this year, the entrance exam was split into two parts: a preliminary, eliminatory

round in April, and a final round in June. It is becoming increasingly difficult under the present system to select the 15 per cent or so of candidates who will eventually be successful. Turkey has a young population of more than 45 million, while the total capacity of its universities and "academies" stands at around 190,000 students.

The new system may also be viewed as an attempt by the education ministry to weaken the private university entrance preparatory schools. The increased importance to be attached to results obtained at the state schools should encourage pupils to work harder, partially eliminate the advantage of those who can afford to pay for additional cramming and reinforce the control of the

state over this aspect of the system. The next step may be the introduction of more university-oriented courses in the final years of public secondary education.

Meanwhile, the selection process remains open to diverse criticisms, such as that the entrance examination is too general in content or that it fails to assess personal qualities. A large proportion of the candidates will eventually become teachers, it is argued, and for this examination success alone is an inadequate criterion.

All this in a country where such store is set by higher education that a degree or equivalent was made a condition for membership of the Consultative Assembly which will soon draft the basic law of the third Turkish republic.

### Purge on graduate nepotism

from Jane Marshall

PEKING

Measures to prevent abuse in assigning jobs to college graduates have come into force under a circular issued by the Peking Discipline Inspection Commission.

Graduates in China do not find their own jobs, but are assigned posts by the state. This might mean they have to take work which does not interest them, or be sent away from home to places where the need for graduates is greatest - isolated or less developed areas, or regions where the minority nationalities live.

According to the circular, a number of privileged officials have been using "backdoor methods" to secure desirable jobs for their children, relatives and friends, despite efforts to stamp out such practices in the past.

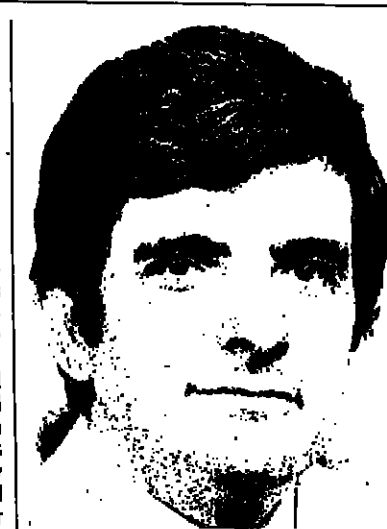
The circular says cadres must not abuse their authority by choosing specific specific college graduates for jobs in their departments, or demand specific job assignments for their children. Should such practices occur, the college or university must report the violation to discipline inspection departments.

It forbids departments seeking staff to choose a specific person. They may not conduct personal interviews or inspect files without authorization from the Ministry of Education or the relevant personnel department. Universities must refuse any unauthorized requests.

The circular reiterates that graduates must accept the employment allocated to them, and that they are not allowed to find jobs for themselves; though allowance will be made for any graduate who can officially prove he has family or other difficulties. "Serious punishment" will be given for falsification of certificates of proof.

Officials responsible for job assignments must stick to the regulations, keep utmost secrecy, show no favouritism and accept no bribes. Punishment for breaking the rules could include unwelcome publicity.

A warning to graduates who refuse to accept jobs assigned to them is published in a recent issue of an intellectuals' newspaper, *Guangming Ribao*, which threatens that their qualifications will be cancelled and they will be barred from state employment.



Great debate kicks off

from Guy Neuve

PARIS The research world is gearing up for a major discussion on the direction of most of the major fields of scientific research over the next five years. The great debate announced last June by minister of research and technology, Jean-Pierre Chevènement (above) will take place over the next three months.

Kick-off in the debate was a two-day discussion at Dijon, centre of the electronics industry. A major innovation is that a series of regional discussions will be held, leading up to a final national congress in Paris next January. The preliminary meetings are a chance for local industry to state its needs and judge potential help from regional universities.

Recognition of this regional aspect of research is highly controversial in France where policies have been traditionally decided by central government. The new policy is in line with the Mitterrand government's commitment to the regions.

The January discussion will be rounded off by a mass meeting of some 1500 researchers who will discuss all areas. The purpose is to lay down the basis of a major Act that will decide priorities.

At the moment, the main worry among scientists is whether such an ambitious programme can be prepared in time for legislation to be presented to the national assembly, due to take place in the early spring.

Despite denials by the ministry the feeling persists in some quarters that the broad priorities have already been decided.

### Protest over student detentions

from Craig Chorney

JOHANNESBURG

The editors of South Africa's *National Student* newspaper have been detained by security police.

Mr Keith Coleman and Mr Clive van Heerden, students at the University of the Witwatersrand, were held in Johannesburg under a law which provides for renewable 14 day periods of detention without trial.

Their detention appears to be part of a major swoop on the white left in Johannesburg, which had already netted Wits student Miss Barbara Hogan and Mr Van Heerden's elder brother Auret, the immediate past president of the National Union of South African Students.

Almost a score of people have been picked up in the crackdown. The largest on white dissidents since the early 1970s, though some have been released.

Even before the current wave of detentions, three other Wits students, Mr Ben Greyling, Mr Les Lax, and Miss Elaine Mohammed, had been held for more than two months under a law which permits indefinite detention for interrogation.

Academics at Wits have expressed concern at these moves by the State, and urged British colleagues to react.

The Wits Conference of Academics for a Democratic Society declared: "All detainees, regardless of colour, are subjected to the most abhorrent treatment. They are allowed no access to legal representation, no access to families, loved ones, or friends."

"They are kept in solitary confinement, which is most vicious form of torture. For friends and relatives, the anxiety is equally acute: they have no knowledge of where the detainee is being kept, nor in what condition."

At the SASPU national office, student journalists vowed that the fortnightly journal would carry on, despite the loss of its editors. It has clashed regularly with the authorities since it was founded early last year, and several issues have been banned for their outspoken examination of contentious topics.

### British Council finds places for late starters

from Stephen Taylor

SALISBURY

British officials reported this week that they have had considerable success in finding places at British universities and colleges for Zimbabwean students who are late starters for the academic year.

However, as a result of months of confusion over who qualifies for grant places it seems likely that about 80 students who are entitled to study in Britain will miss their chance this year.

In the past two weeks, following the late publication of lists of students to take up study grants, the

British Council in Salisbury and in London has been attempting to find openings for those who have not already been accepted. The delay in compiling the lists was due to an interministerial dispute in Zimbabwe.

Of a total of 235 names on two lists places had to be found for about 150 students although the academic year had already been under way for two weeks. Officials say that so far 66 of those have been accepted by institutions in Britain.

Miss Cathy Stephens of the British Council said: "The universities have been very accommodating. Normally at this late stage students would be

turned away but it seems that because of the special circumstances everybody has been going out of their way to help."

Miss Stephens believes however that with most courses into their second month there is little hope of placing more than a few of the remaining 80 students.

Further difficulties loom over a new list published this week of 40 young Zimbabweans who have been chosen for courses in Britain on financial management and banking.

The selection has again been delayed by interministerial discussions and it is thought unlikely that places can now be found for all 40 students.

## Reagan warned over science cuts

by our North American editor

Leading scientists in the United States and Canada have launched high-level campaigns to persuade their respective governments to protect scientific research from the worst effects of the economic recession and develop better national planning for their science efforts.

A meeting sponsored by the United States National Academy of Sciences and attended by more than 100 university administrators and researchers in Washington last week issued a strongly worded statement warning President Reagan that the cuts proposed for scientific research by his autumn budget would cause irreversible damage.

"It is the view of this conference that continued sound investments in research and development by the federal government are essential to our national goals, including public welfare, a strong national security, and a renewal of growth in productivity," the statement said.

"Much of our economic growth over the last three decades is directly attributable to research and development that has been supported by both government and industry and even earlier investments in research."

"Because of the important relationship between research, technology and increased productivity, the expressed goals of this administration for a strong economy and improved

national security demand more, rather than less investment in basic research."

Dr Frank Press, president of the National Academy and a former science adviser to President Carter, described the two-day meeting as an unprecedented gathering of eminent scientists and policy makers. As well as eight Nobel laureates, participants included Dr George Keyworth, head of the White House office of science and technology policy.

Discussions at the meeting were frequently acrimonious, with the scientists expressing mounting alarm about the future of America's research effort and Dr Keyworth warning the scholars against paranoia.

He told the scientists that science in the United States was healthy and that some of the reactions of the science community had been unrealistic. In a time of budgetary restraint, it was necessary to concentrate research on areas which showed maximum promise and relevance in meeting national needs.

But William Carey, executive director of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, said that the cuts were not being properly planned. "I don't see any of the kind of machinery to manage an orderly retreat," he said. "We are letting our out of our tyres one pound at a time when we should make up our mind how much tyre pressure will keep us

out of the ditch."

The need to protect basic research and plan America's science policy at a national level were singled out as priorities in the meeting's final statement. The scientists expressed particular concern that only 15 per cent of the government's \$40bn spending on research went to basic science and engineering.

The scientists also opposed the administration's intention to make the autumn cuts of 12 per cent fall evenly across the whole science budget. They urged Congress to review research and development across the entire spectrum of government activity and shift resources to maintain the basic sciences.

In Canada, too, a delegation of organizations representing 35,000 scientists last week met MPs and government officials to warn them that the federal government's intention to protect the nation's research effort could be vitiated by a rundown in support for higher education generally.

Peter David, North American Editor, The Times Higher Education Supplement, National Press Building, Room 541, Washington DC 20045; Telephone: (202) 638 6765

## University windfall from tycoon who never went to college

A lucky group of 25 American universities and colleges received an unexpected windfall last week when the MacArthur Foundation of Chicago, one of the newest charitable foundations in the United States, announced plans to give them a \$15.6m grant.

The money will be used to endow MacArthur chairs at nine research universities, including the University of California at Berkeley, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Harvard University, the University of Chicago and Northwestern University.

Each of the nine will receive an unencumbered endowment of \$1.2m to invest and support the costs of a chair in any subject of the university's

choice. In addition, 16 leading liberal arts colleges, including Colgate, Colorado and Kalamazoo, will be given \$300,000 each to support new academic posts.

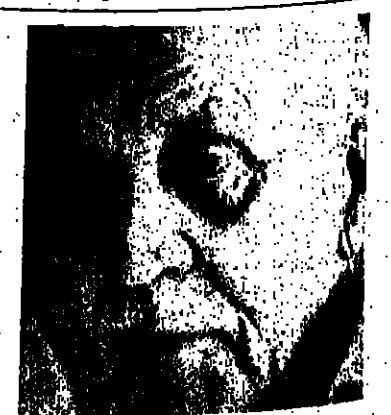
The grant, one of the biggest private donations ever given to higher education to support new academic appointments, will help inject new blood and staff mobility into a university system which has been made rigid by spending cuts and tenured appointments.

John MacArthur (right) was an insurance and property billionaire who left school at 16 and never went to college. He died three years ago at the age of 89. The foundation he established, which is expected to realize assets next year of

\$2bn, could become the biggest in the United States after the Ford Foundation.

In two years of operation, the MacArthur foundation has already earned a reputation for unusual grants decisions. This year it gave awards to 21 "exceptionally talented individuals" to release them from financial pressure for five years and enable them to make a contribution to society.

Last week's university awards were selected by the foundation's 13-member board on the basis of the universities' established reputation in the natural sciences. But Mr John Corbally, the foundation's president, has warned that the board is not yet committed to further programmes in higher education.







## Term of the unkindest cuts

There has never been a term quite like it in the university world. Planning committees are urgently drawing up plans which if approved would mean the loss of

thousands of jobs, cuts in facilities and health, careers, lodgings services. NAGIO CREQUER and OLGA WOJ-TAS, in Scotland, report on some of the developments so far.

### CAMBRIDGE

Some quite extraordinary events in the history of the UGC. The registry, without informing the vice-chancellor or the unions, advised the Department of Employment that up to 300 staff might be made redundant. Lecturers withdrew the notices the following day. Council will discuss the matter this week.

Even more extraordinary is the behaviour of the UGC. First it said in its July letter that it endorsed the university's proposals for a shift of emphasis from social studies towards the arts. It was news to the university that they had ever proposed such a shift.

On further inquiry the university discovered that the social studies subcommittee had thought, quite erroneously, that Keele had wanted to reduce its number of social sciences by 30 per cent. Yet the UGC has assured Keele that the mistake had no effect on the UGC decisions for Keele.

Dr David Harrison, vice-chancellor, has told the UGC that the potential job loss, represented by the reduction in grant of one-third in two years, was staggering for a relatively small university.

The bulk of the savings is expected through the early retirement scheme. The university expects to shed about 100 academic posts out of a total of 1,500 over the next three years. It will also fill only the most essential posts, and the compulsory retirement age has been reduced from 67 to 65.

### University College, CARDIFF

The college revised downwards its admission targets for this October and will meet UGC objectives for 1983 and 1984 without further major adjustment, the principal said. He expects to reach a financial breakeven position during the three years ending in October, 1984 and he has told staff he is confident that redundancies among academic and non-academic staff, can be avoided.

### CITY

A senate working party recommended the reduction of staff by 150, 60 of them academic. A plan would be necessary to cover deficits. Other proposals included a reduction by one third in periodicals purchases, relinquishing one building, three masters courses be closed and some other courses reviewed.

### EAST ANGLIA

First calculations suggested a deficit of £2.1m in 1983/84, or 12 per cent of projected expenditure. After the UGC initiative the university has agreed to the sale of Keswick Hall, with a new building being provided, to create a single site institution.

### EXETER

Dr Henry Kay, the vice-chancellor said the university will have lost by 1983/84 more than 15 per cent of its total income. The UGC apologized in August for omitting a footnote in its July letter. Its loss of students for 1983/84 was 290, not the 30 stated. A week later it wrote to say that unfortunately Exeter had been over-paid £320,000 but this would now be recovered.

### HULL

Heads of departments have been circulated with planning guidelines to help them to find ways of reducing expenditure by 20 per cent. Faculty boards have been asked to provide reduced student target numbers, and to suggest economies. The feared job loss in 120-150 academics and many more support staff.

The AUT has prepared an alternative strategy which includes greater economies in non-payroll expenditure, early retirement and secondment, and the sale of non-UGC funded student houses.

Sir Roy Marshall, the vice-chancellor has resigned from his university public office to give his full attention to current problems. The chief executive of Humberside County Council wrote to the UGC to express his concern on social and economic as well as academic grounds. The director of the Gullbank Foundation expressed concern and the Hull Incorporated Chamber of Commerce and Shipping said the cut was invidious and more than harsh. The county council returned its grant to the university.

### KEELE

A court paper to senate has drawn up a provisional numbers model distributing reductions according to this, the 1983/84 student numbers objectives would mean a 48.5 per cent reduction in combined sciences, a 25 per cent reduction each for architecture, pharmacy and subjects allied to medicine, a 17.5 per cent reduction in biological sciences, 16 per cent reduction in mathematics, 12 per cent reduction in social studies, 8 per cent increase in engineering and technology and 2 per cent increase in business management.

Professor Randolph Quirk, vice-chancellor, has effectively wound up the Swinerton-Dyer inquiry on a would-be like its help on minor matters. He has replaced it with a series of subject area review committees which have been asked to report in January.

As for individual schools, Chelsea has urgent problems and the principal has estimated a possible job loss of 210 staff. Money to pay salaries will run out early next year, and by this time next year the college will be

medial action, the university would have deficits of £4,550,000 in 1982/83 and £6,350,000 in 1983/84 "the last figure in reality being hypothetical since the university would have gone bankrupt in mid-1983." The course closures are in engineering, biochemistry, biology, mathematics, chemistry, business and administration and some arts.

The organization CAMPUS will continue, to try to improve the position concerning the provisional grants for the next two years, and to promote the university's interests.

The cuts involve what is in effect the reconstruction of Salford University.

A discussion document estimates that about 120 jobs, in all categories, will have to be shed by 1984/85. The final draft of a response to the UGC is expected to be presented to senate in January.

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### MANCHESTER

Professor of Mark Richmond, the vice-chancellor estimates that the university faces a cumulative loss of income over the next three years of between £15m-£20m the cut this year being £4m. Two committees have been set up to draw up an academic plan, to be presented to senate and council at the end of this month.

### OXFORD

Oxford is adopting a broader strategy aiming for a savings target of about 8 per cent by 1984. The university estimates that without any cuts this year the deficit would be £12.5m (3 per cent) rising to £15m by 1984 (7 per cent).

All university departments have been asked for savings of 2 per cent this year, and a further 3 per cent next year. This would mean savings of £650,000 in the first year. But there have been problems. Plans by the Bodleian library for example to reduce opening hours by one third were rejected as too severe by dons.

The university is also maintaining its moratorium on filling posts: so far 36 posts are officially frozen, but many more including a string of chairs are empty.

Oxford is also acting quickly on reducing student numbers. Colleges have been asked to cut the entry of home and EEC arts undergraduates by 4 per cent in 1982, and of science students by 2 per cent, compared with entry levels in 1980.

### SALFORD

The senate approved, with minor amendments, an academic plan recommending the closure of more than 30 courses, and cessation of options in others. A second report will now examine the staffing and financial resources of the university. An early estimate was that 500 jobs were at risk.

Immediate financial measures cut £1,500,000 off the non-staffing budget but this still left a deficit of £800,000 for this year. Without re-

## London goes into the merger business in a big way

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## John O'Leary on the compromise reached on the temporary national body

## A perfect political solution

Whatever deficiencies may come to light when the new, temporary national body begins work in the New Year, for the moment it represents the perfect political compromise. While local authority leaders can proclaim an increasingly rare victory against the designs of central government, the Department of Education and Science knows that the agreement will rescue ministers from a dangerously exposed position and again give them the whip hand.

If the body should overcome range of handicaps, such as shortage of administrative resources, discord over membership and late entry on to the scene, the local authorities can be allowed to maintain control of colleges and polytechnics without too much embarrassment. If, on the other hand, it is not an instant success in persuading individual authorities to accept rationalization on a national scale, and across the binary line, it should prove much easier to push through the centralist model favoured by the department.

The two sides had reached an impasse over the options for a permanent national body outlined in the Green Paper published in the summer. Ministers had been taken by surprise by the strength of all-party local government opposition to any take-over of institutions and, with more pressing matters competing for inclusion in a tight Parliamentary timetable, time was not on the side of the DES.

Given the record of the local government lobby, especially in the House of Lords, it seemed that some compromise would have to be reached if the swinging cuts signalled in this year's Expenditure White Paper were not to be imposed in haphazard fashion across the country.

It was the arrival of the new team of ministers at the DES which paved the way for a settlement. In the short term at least. But no one predicted the shock proposal made by Sir Keith Joseph a month ago. The Council of Local Education Authorities was suddenly presented with a paper which dressed up their own scheme in only mildly different clothes, leaving them no choice but to co-operate. As Mrs Nicky Harrington, chairman of CLEA, said later, the authorities' bluff had been called.

The paper, for which Mr William Waldegrave, under secretary for higher education, is being given most credit, stressed that the Government had not deviated from the opinion that current course approval mechanisms and the Advanced Further Education Pool did not provide adequate management control in the long term. But it could be developed to produce what Mr Waldegrave described as "a firebrigade exercise".

Ministers said the paper recognized that neither of the options outlined in the Green Paper could begin to influence the system in less than two years. "In the meantime, resource constraint and the beginning of the decline in the 18-year-old age group will be forcing changes on the system (indeed, are already forcing such changes) with the clear risk that they will be largely uncoordinated, causing damage to national provision as a result," it added.

In fact, despite guarded claims to the contrary in the paper, both sides now accept that even emergency measures will have little effect on the distribution of the pool for 1982/83. The two-tier system will not be in operation before the end of the year and it is expected that only preliminary decisions on course approvals will emerge before Easter. Nevertheless, it will be a rash institution which takes no notice of such indications in apportioning the inevitable cuts which have to be made next year.

The new body will be looking first at broad subject areas in the major

institutions with a keen eye for possible rationalization, eventually straddling the binary line. Although it will deal with the entire pool in subsequent years, examination of courses will necessarily be restricted initially to the polytechnics and larger colleges.

Three areas of likely intervention were listed in the paper setting out DES thinking on the interim arrangements. They were: particularly high-cost courses, those requiring control of student numbers because of their specialization and those where both university and public sector provision might be unnecessary or where rationalization "would for other reasons be in point and practicable".

Judgments will be in the hands of the supreme body, which ministers and local authority members appear determined to make as exclusive as possible, but a substructure will be created to advise on academic questions. The information will be filtered by the central "board" of officers, which will meet regularly, do most of the work and probably take the decisions. Although power will lie with the main body, it is the board which may come to be seen as the real source of decisions.

However, as with the Macfarlane committee, which bore great similarity to the proposed arrangements, argument presently centres on membership of the main body. The

struggle over that committee is likely to persuade ministers that union and institutional management interests should be included at least on the second level, but only the Council for National Academic Awards may be invited on to the top tier. It may be that both CLEA and the DES have waited too long to exercise direct power to brook even this distraction.

The danger is that, like CLEA itself, the new body may come to be seen as unequal to the tasks set for it. Its credibility as an academic group expected to sit down on level terms with the University Grants Committee is already being questioned, albeit by those who fear exclusion, and the paucity of administrative support envisaged also leaves considerable room for doubt about its effectiveness. Although the original DES proposal of a single servicing officer supported by a single secretary has been negotiated upwards, it remains a slim operation indeed compared with the £1m, 70-strong administration earmarked for the department's proposed permanent structure.

It will, of course, have the administrative experience of the individual authorities and their associations to call upon, as well as the academic expertise of the CNAA. Her Majesty's Inspectorate and bodies such as the Advisory Committee on the Supply and Training of Teachers. But all will be stretched if the new body is to command confidence in the crucial decisions which will have to be taken even if its life is a short one. With the size of the AFE Pool certain to be drastically reduced, the very survival of a number of institutions will be in its hands.

The withdrawal of course approvals and the distribution of "further funding" (supplementation of the basic grant to each institution, as recommended by the Stephen Jones group) will be the means by which the body sets about its rationalization exercise. It will be a daunting task but, with the spectre of the department's Green Paper Model B to haunt them, the local authorities will be anxious to make a go of it.

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### ASTON

The university has never been out of the news. Last week the council passed a motion on the recommendation of senate, that no members of staff would be made compulsorily redundant this academic year. Up to 450 jobs are at risk. An alliance of all the campus unions has put up a vigorous campaign against the cuts and projected job losses. The Association of University Teachers, and the Academic Assembly have both passed motions of no confidence in the vice-chancellor, Professor Frederick Crawford.

Senate is seeking a meeting with Dr Edward Parkes, chairman of the University Grants Committee, and has sent him a strongly-worded seven page letter expressing outrage at the cuts and anxiety as to how the UGC came to its conclusions.

And now the university is certain to end up in court. Two students who were accepted for courses which Aston subsequently discontinued because of the cuts have alleged breach of contract. Their legal action is being supported by the National Union of Students, and the result could have implications for other universities.

### BRISTOL

Senate was considering this week

### BRUNEL

The first university to say how many staff should go, and from which departments. A joint senate/council

working party chaired by the vice-chancellor recommended the abolition of 112 non-academic posts, and 53 academic posts. The report said it regarded fighting the cuts as wasted effort, which would require no courage whatever.

The campus unions rejected the report, and a number of staff submitted their own papers to senate, criticizing the report and offering different solutions.

Senate decided that the report was an "important possible model for implementing changes" but called for three moves: obtaining legal advice on the costs of staff displacement, pressing for satisfactory completion of the negotiations between national government and university bodies on compensation, and inviting submissions for alternative strategies from members of the university.

Now Brunel and London University's Royal Holloway College are holding urgent talks about the possibility of merger.



Students protesting against the cuts in Edinburgh recently

## Scotland begins to feel the pinch

### ABERDEEN

Planning committee recommendations for non-pay savings of £700,000 have been overshadowed by estimates that around 350 of its 3,000 posts will have to be lost. This would save around £2.5m and Aberdeen faces a deficit of £4.5m by 1983.

The cuts would be made up of 112 academic posts, 63 clinical medicine posts, 61 technical posts, 25 secretarial posts and 90 manual posts. Around 120 academics and 400 other staff are aged over 65 and would be entitled to early retirement.

The planning committee has further recommended that the logic, development biology and history and philosophy of science departments be closed, and imply that closure is being considered of the social work, Spanish and Italian departments.

Principal George McIntosh is due to meet the UGC today, and the planning committee meets again next week.

### DUNDEE

Anticipates a deficit of around £2m over the next three years has taken the first step towards cuts by declaring a state of "extreme financial stringency" removing the protection against compulsory redundancy from non-clinical academic staff, the only group within the university with this protection.

### GLASGOW

The academic development committee, which has estimated a deficit of just over £6m by 1983/84, has stated that 431 jobs will have to be lost over the next three years, saving around £4m. Nearly 200 of the jobs lost will be academic.

Among its main recommendations for savings are a freeze on salary increases from next April, although it warns this would have to be negotiated at national level to preserve the Government would not introduce further cuts and relieve these funds.

The bill for academic pay takes up just over half of Glasgow's income, and allocating a 4 per cent pay increase to reduce job loss would account for 60 non-clinical and seven clinical posts, says the committee.

It further proposes every academic and academic-related member of staff taking "one or two weeks' unpaid leave this session, giving the university half a million pounds.

### EDINBURGH

The university has announced it will have to save £2m in the coming session, although there is so far no need for compulsory redundancies. Meetings of the resources and educational policy committees to discuss how to achieve these cuts will take place in mid-November.

Although the UGC proposed that

### HERIOT-WATT

Edinburgh's student intake remains unaltered, since Edinburgh has been admitting a surplus of students since the late 1970s there will have to be a cut of 10 per cent in arts students from next session.

Funding is being cut by 13 per cent over four years. The university has not announced any timescale for implementing the cuts, but has made no over-estimate to UGC recommendations that its Russian department be closed, a degree in business law discontinued, and teaching numbers in pharmacy be reduced. The university cut is expected to make a statement later this month.

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### ST ANDREWS

Will have a deficit of £1,890,000 by 1983. Has already saved £300,000 over the past year by freezing posts, and cutting down on non-salary budgets and departmental grants.

A committee on restructuring the university has been set up, and is likely to submit definite proposals on cuts to the January council meeting.

### STIRLING

One of the worst hit universities with a cut in its recurrent grant of 23 per cent, is the first to have met the University Grants Committee to plead its case.

Sir Kenneth Alexander, Stirling's principal, emerged from the meeting cautiously optimistic that the cuts would be reduced by the new year. However, the university has just embarked on a savings programme designed to save £600,000, affecting every budget except salaries.

The university has already calculated that if there is no reduction in its cuts, 62 academic and 120 of the 865 non-academic posts will have to be axed.

### STRATHCLYDE

No proposals will be put by the joint policy committee to either staff or the UGC until the middle of December. Under the aegis of the committee, which is a sub-committee of both the court and senate, the deans of all Strathclyde's schools of study have been consulting each department, considering the options open to them.

However, Strathclyde has now extended its initial offer of voluntary early retirement from 56 to 50 in some cases, adding that where possible retired members of staff will be able to work part-time with university research facilities and office space.











# BOOKS

## Auden's retreat

Early Auden  
by Edward Mendelson  
Faber, £10.00  
ISBN 0 571 11193 9

Rather hard luck on Humphrey Carpenter. His full-length biography of W. H. Auden came out only a short time ago, to widespread critical acclaim, and already it is eclipsed. Edward Mendelson's *Early Auden* is now the indispensable book on the poet's great years, and compulsory reading for any one with a spark of interest in "the most inclusive poet of the twentieth century, its most technically skilled, and one of its most paradoxical, and contradictory, and infuriatingly uneven."

The contradictions are the problem. It is hard, in attempting to write both justly and excitingly about Auden's development, to strike the right balance between exegesis and polemic. His poems, especially those written in the early thirties, are allusive, intellectually tight-packed, deliberately resistant to decoding, self-contradictory. They enact a complex debate between mutually exclusive views of history and freedom, the psyche and society, Freud and Marx, between eros and agape and political commitment. It is a debate which is open-ended, and whose dialectical tensions are never resolved in a synthesizing third term, and Auden frequently contradicts himself not only in two poems written at the same time, but within a single work. *Spain*, for instance, as Edward Mendelson demonstrates, tries to argue two incompatible ideas of history and responsibility at the same time. To unravel all this without becoming either reductive or tedious is a tricky task for the critic, and most previous attempts have either side-stepped the issues altogether, or collapsed in their tracks under the dead weight of their own index cards, scholarly footnotes and solemn expositions of Auden's concealed epilepsy. *The Wraiths*. Professor Mendelson, although not entirely free from this fault, makes a splendid job of the exegesis.

His method, simple enough in conception but very difficult to bring off in practice, is to organize his book around Auden's obsession with his own emotional isolation and its concomitant, his endless quest for "a whole of which he can be a part." The uncompletedness which is seen as the basis of his literary technique is shown also to be the poet's persistent theme. All the English works (and Professor Mendelson will no doubt extend the method in *Late Auden*) become stages in a search for the end of isolation, and their tensions derive from a utopian dream of an unalienated wholeness whose possibility they simultaneously deny.

We envy streams and houses that are sure:  
But we are artless to error: we  
Were never nude and calm like a  
great door.

And never will be perfect like the  
fountains:  
We live in freedom by necessity,  
A mountain people dwelling  
among mountains.

Mendelson shows the pressure of his quest, and of the deepening social crisis in the early thirties which framed it, forcing Auden from the intense subjectivism of the early poems, with their language that can speak only of individual deprivation and the diseased ego, towards a public poetry which can speak of the diseased society and of the great issues of civilization and barbarism. "And we rebuild our cities, not dream of islands." It is a story of politicization and the learning of social hope. And here is where the polemic comes in behind and breathes fire into the scholarly cataloguing of theme and image. Professor Mendelson is writing a distillate as well as an exegesis, a vigorous



Auden, photographed in the late 1940s.

and convincing denunciation of certain potentialities and effects of the modernist movement. Modernism, in this account, "had rendered practical social issues invisible by assimilating all experience into a private introspective order," and the history of Auden's development is the history of his recognition of this. "He was the first English writer who absorbed all the lessons of modernism, but also understood its limits, and chose to turn elsewhere", challenging what Mendelson calls the "vitic" style and seeking to revive "a civil tradition of poetry that extended from Chaucer through Shakespeare, Dryden, and Pope." In this respect, his poetic development is analogous to that of Brecht:

Renouncing the brash menacing styles of their early work, both those didactic manners suitable for irony and celebration. Both taught through parables. Where modernism had included innovative forms to speak of historical necessity, Auden and Brecht adopted traditional forms to speak of freedom and choice. They both enlarged the genres they adopted by restoring to literary language the content and manner of historical analysis, public oratory, moral philosophy, social and literary criticism, even gossip, and they restored to poetry an encyclopedic fullness of subject matter and style. Neither would entrust serious issues to the inflation of the grand manner, and neither was afraid to be vulgar. Each dreamed for a time of a perfect society; each woke to the recognition that an ideal order imposed on a recalcitrant citizenry, which included themselves, would be an arid despotism.

This is well said. It succinctly summarizes the most admirable qualities of Auden's art, and indicates the strengths of Mendelson's own approach to it. But it also provides a clue to the book's most evident weakness, its failure to give an adequate account of Auden's brief flirtation with and hasty retreat from full political commitment. Mendelson seems unaware of the respects in which the analogy between Auden and Brecht breaks down in his final sentence. Yes, it is true that in later life Brecht too was critical of the utopian strain in his youthful work, and of the didactic style that went with it. But you would have to search a long way from Brecht to find anything equivalent to the pious Cold War platitudes of Auden's later career. Nor is there anywhere in his writing anything as facile as "Art is not life and cannot be / A midwife to society," or "For poetry makes nothing happen: it survives / In the valley of its making." However hard he tries, Professor Mendelson cannot persuade me that the line is meant to stress "Poetry makes nothing happen." The rhythm simply won't allow it. The line is flat, monosyllabic defeatist. One does not have to feed in the context - the collapse of the literary left, Auden's departure from Europe - to feel that.

So I cannot fully share Professor Mendelson's sense of relief when Auden banishes "History" with a capital "H" from his poetic vocabulary. It seems to me, on the contrary, to mark the first step in a saddening retreat: a retreat from that very attempt to forge a new, historically engaged "civic" poetry which Professor Mendelson says that he values. a

retreat which turned out to be deeply damaging both to Auden's own writing and to the whole development of postwar English literature. I still want to find lines like -

And all sway forward on the dangerous flood  
Of history, that never sleeps or dies,

And, held one moment, burns the hand

some of the most splendid and hard-earned which Auden wrote, and I find the chapter in which Professor Mendelson urges us to find in Auden's "History" nothing but a theological abstraction the most oddly over-insistent and least persuasive in his book. He has written a fine, a very fine account of the first half of Auden's career. But its final pages, with their rather gushily homiletic description of how Auden at last found "reconciliation" and "pardon" ("The only answer to the isolating will is the absolute gift of pardon" and so on), make me doubt whether the sequel will be as good. Let's hope I'm wrong.

Iain Wright

Iain Wright is a fellow of Queens College, Cambridge.

## Claiming Hardy

Hardy's Poetry 1860-1928

by Dennis Taylor  
Macmillan, £15.00  
ISBN 0 333 27632 9

Good Little Thomas Hardy

by C. H. Salter  
Macmillan, £15.00  
ISBN 0 333 29387 8

Thomas Hardy: psychological novelist  
by Rosemary Sumner  
Macmillan, £15.00  
ISBN 0 333 29085 2

From the evidence of these three books it would appear that Thomas Hardy's reputation is alive and well at Little Essex Street. It is good of course, that Hardy's old publisher should maintain its loyalty to him though it is perhaps testimony to what C. H. Salter sees as his "excessive claims" made for his originality that Macmillan should issue three such various studies, each at £15.00, within the space of six months.

Professor Taylor views Hardy's poetry as the culmination of "patience over a lifetime and are belatedly revealed." Dr Sumner largely ignores the poetry and argues instead that the novels show us Hardy "challenging the conventions of the novel of his day, and anticipating twentieth-century novelists." Salter's emphasis on the significance of sexuality, diminishes just such a bedazzled claim by persuading us to look at Hardy not as a philosopher or social critic or artistic innovator but simply as a traditional story-teller.

Readers still need to balance Hardy's nineteenth-century achievement as a novelist against his understated achievement as a twentieth-century poet. The novels, especially those that aspire to the condition of poetry, can seem clumsy

beside the finest of the lyric poetry which is fluent, exquisite and contained. We have come a long way since Leavis defined his "new hearings" by proclaiming that Hardy's rank as a major poet rested upon a mere dozen poems "lost among a vast bulk of verse interesting only by its oddity and idiosyncrasy", but it is only through studies of the quality of Dennis Taylor's that we can rechart a passage through that ocean of poetry which welled up after the publication of *Jude the Obscure*.

Taylor opens his first chapter with typical forthrightness, directing us to "Copying Architecture in an Old Minister" as an important poem which is "little known and little anthologized" yet which serves to illustrate "many of the supposed defects of Hardy's poetry". These "supposed defects" become signatures, and the poem itself a running demonstration of a central thesis in the book, that Hardy constantly misunderstood his past experience, gradually synthesizing elements of it in his lyric poetry. This is a diverse and occasionally diffuse study, one which tends to move in fits and starts rather than steadily, but it is one which reveals Taylor's exceptional gift for the observant, pointed and exact phrase. He deals discriminatingly with a very full range of verse and he is at his best probing particular poems and issues, as in his discussion of the neglected penultimate volume, *Human Shows*. Taylor can be puzzling and over-compressed in his analyses but he is also exhilarating and enlightening.

C. H. Salter's ominously titled *Good Little Thomas Hardy* looks squarely, and quizzically at the novels. It is an intelligent, informed and forceful book which attempts to argue against the high claims made for aspects of Hardy's art by modern critics. It is often abrupt in its demonstrations, and it is sometimes unfair to those critics it seeks to counter, but it genuinely clears the way for a reassessment of Hardy the novelist. Salter outlines Hardy's limitations and suggests that he leaves out a great deal that other critics have praised him for including. He argues, for example, that the novelist was rather less interested in Victorian ideas and social problems than has often been supposed. Nevertheless, this book is more of an onslaught on Hardy's admirers than a redefinition of Hardy's art. It is cursory when it insists on the weaknesses of the novelist's style and it seems dismissive when it shows the extent to which Hardy repeats themes and situations from novel to novel.

Salter's attempt to counter the common enough impression that Hardy was both "modern" in his own day and a direct precursor of English "modernism" is interestingly balanced by Rosemary Sumner's consistent determination to show us Hardy the innovator. She writes persuasively on the psychology of a select number of characters (she is especially good on *Jude the Obscure*), and she shows herself to be well read in the work of Freud and his disciples. Her study lacks resilience, however. She fails to see the extent to which Hardy was both an heir of his predecessors and a man of his times, for her assertions of his novelty seem to blind her to the fact that she could have written as interesting a diagnosis of the ills of the characters of Cervantes, Fielding or Thackeray (let alone those of Sophocles and Shakespeare) in whom Freud himself showed some interest). To claim that Hardy is a "pioneer of the novel" and to justify the idea simply by reiterating that he prefigures D. H. Lawrence and Freud, would seem to beg many questions. Other major strands in modernism, those less concerned with sexuality, are ignored but for tiny gestures towards Proust and Joyce.

It is also odd that this study should barely touch upon Hardy's own copy-scholarship and should avoid any reference to Robert Gittings's biography. It is surely the very problem of consciousness which makes Hardy's poetry so much more significant in the twentieth century than his novels.

My only minor cavil with this volume is that, given the unworldly knowledge of the evolution of Yeats's prose styles and theory of fiction which this must have afforded them, it is unfortunate that the editors felt constrained to limit themselves in their introduction to bibliographical issues. They refer briefly to Yeats's wish to revise his work, modified by a belief that a richer synthesis could be perceived in the contrasts between "earlier and later work and selves". This theme has been lengthily expounded in the context of the poetry and in some measure of the plays but not with regard to Yeats's fiction. One would have appreciated some critical and evaluative commentary to accompany the texts, particularly as the introduction is only a modest twenty pages. Let us hope that editors and publishers are planning a companion volume.

Andrew Sanders

Andrew Sanders is lecturer in English at Birkbeck College, London.

## Vision and revision

The Secret Rose, Stories by W. B. Yeats: a variorum edition  
edited by Phillip L. Marcus, Warwick Gould and Michael J. Sidnell  
Cornell University Press, £15.00  
ISBN 0 8014 1194 7

In the dedication of the 1925 edition of his *Early Poems and Stories* Yeats observed: "I tried after the publication of 'The Wanderings of Odysseus' to write of nothing but emotion, and in the simplest language, and now I have had to go through it all, cutting out or altering passages that are sentimental from lack of thought." Just how extensively the tales, as distinct from the poems, were subject to revision at each re-publishing the handsome variorum edition of *The Secret Rose* makes clear.

With the majority of the stories Yeats endeavoured to eliminate from his prose all echoes of Pater's decadences (and one might add Whitman too), and to bring a greater clarity to the narrative line. He dispenses with the decorative amplifications that tend in the earliest versions to imprison the reader's mind on the surface of the tales, the style thus being so self-consciously wrought. With the passing away of detail and consequent sharpening of one's attention on the shape and development of each tale, one's imagination is paradoxically more easily released into the world of the fiction. Increased succinctness intensifies the power of allusion; gestures, responses (verbal and physical), impulses to action, when left unadorned, excite the reader to think through a logic of motivation, often by visualizing the episode, and that attunes one's mind immediately to the symbolic implications of each tale. How much more awesome, for example, is the incantation of the hawk-feathered crones over the prince's cradle in "The Wisdom of the King", when we are not repeatedly reminded of the Nurse's ignorance and terror and the child's innocence in sleep. Attention is not drawn to the fact of human incomprehension before the event, but engrossed by the form and meaning of the ritual itself.

The editors' justification for choosing Yeats's personally corrected proofs of the *Mythologies* volume as the basis for this edition is unimpeachable. It requires them to investigate the whole publishing history of the canon. For this research alone (especially the account of Yeats's working-relationship with Macmillan's editor, Thomas Mark) scholars owe them a considerable debt. All variant readings are scrupulously recorded, whether the printing was in magazine or book format, even of stories ultimately dropped from the collection; and where wholesale revision occurred, as between the 1892 and 1905-32 texts of the "Hawthorne" group, both versions are given in full.

My only minor cavil with this volume is that, given the unworldly knowledge of the evolution of Yeats's prose styles and theory of fiction which this must have afforded them, it is unfortunate that the editors felt constrained to limit themselves in their introduction to bibliographical issues. They refer briefly to Yeats's wish to revise his work, modified by a belief that a richer synthesis could be perceived in the contrasts between "earlier and later work and selves". This theme has been lengthily expounded in the context of the poetry and in some measure of the plays but not with regard to Yeats's fiction. One would have appreciated some critical and evaluative commentary to accompany the texts, particularly as the introduction is only a modest twenty pages. Let us hope that editors and publishers are planning a companion volume.

Richard Allen Cave

Richard Allen Cave is lecturer in English at Bedford College, London.

# BOOKS

## Hill-fort excavation

Hill-Fort Studies: essays by A. H. A. Hogg  
edited by Graeme Guilbert  
Leicester University Press, £19.00  
ISBN 0 7185 1200 6

This slim volume of essays, presented to Dr A. H. A. Hogg, former Secretary to the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments for Wales and founder-member of the Hill-Forts Study Group, is edited by Graeme Guilbert, who for the past ten years has directed large-scale excavations in north Wales, first at Moel y Gaer subsequently at Dinorben.

Both excavations underlined the limitations of narrow and selective recent cuttings. Moel y Gaer revealed an unusual degree of planning in its internal layout. In his own contribution to this volume Guilbert discusses the implications of this evidence in terms of building function and population estimates in a manner which is more provocative than constructive, ending with a sober warning on the limitations of archaeological inference.

Bradley's essay, too, is concerned with the function of hill-forts, examining their relationship to earlier occupation of the same sites, particularly to causewayed enclosures of the Neolithic, as evidence for continuity of ritual function. His conclusion is that the use of hill-forts reflects not a respect for the earlier monuments but the reverse, being just part of a process of settlement expansion. The first millennium BC after a prolonged interval had obscured the earlier sanctity of the site. "In the end", he concludes, "it is not the coincidence of location that really matters, but the conflicts within society between the requirements of ritual and those of subsistence."

The function of hill-forts in their social and economic environment is the central to Collis's theoretical model. In contrast to "gradualist" models or theories of hill-fort evolution, Collis emphasizes the discontinuity of successive hill-fort systems, which might certainly be inferred, for example, from changes in internal layout at Moel y Gaer or Crick-ly Hill. The two particular models which he offers are plausible enough in themselves, the first showing hypothetical distributions of different types of hill-fort, hierarchical or non-hierarchical, nucleated or non-nucleated, could result in the kind of complexity displayed by the observed relationships to adjacent settlements in which a crisis might involve any of several post-crisis settlement patterns. That such models are "models of testing" is frequently claimed by the exponents of theoretical approaches, but one could wish in this instance that their application and relevance to actual archaeological distributions had been more fully demonstrated.

Collis is, of course, aware that in practice any discussion of hill-fort "systems" makes a basic assumption about the relative dating of the sites in question: "the need for dating is ever-present and... sample excavations can fulfil this need. Single trenches through ramparts can still be very informative". These somewhat tentative statements are particularly relevant to the kind of investigation conducted by Alcock on the limited excavation of post-Roman hill-forts in Scotland. By contrast in Somerset, where evidence from later re-use can be inferred from the fieldwork, Alcock has demonstrated that early historic fortifications in Scotland are not just a subject for the prehistoric story, but in size and location they stand in marked contrast to Iron Age hill-forts, new establishments, including defensive and promontory types, attested by military, political and social sources, and highlighted



All Clut, Castle Rock, Dumbarton, from the River Clyde, showing the confluence of the River Leven to the left. The earthen and timber fighting platform was on the right-hand skyline of the Rock. A nineteenth-century print taken from the book on hill-forts reviewed here.

incidentally the current disparity of approach between prehistorians and archaeologists of historic periods. Ralston's contribution, the results of an extensive research programme which has already modified significantly our knowledge of French hill-forts, extending the distribution of Belgic areas of north-eastern Gaul and now revealing the number of vitrified forts in France, was itself stimulated by Hogg's *Antiquity* paper of 1969. In fact, it is the diversity of Hogg's own involvement in hill-fort studies that unifies this otherwise rather heterogeneous collection of essays.

D. W. Harding

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## Enigmatic climate

The Earth's Problem Climates, second edition  
by Glenn T. Trewartha  
University of Wisconsin Press, £10.50  
ISBN 0 299 08230 X

Professor Trewartha argues, somewhat circuitously, that problem climates may be "departures from the expected... the unusual, the atypical; they are the climatic anomalies". Apparently, however, anomaly is not the whole story, for he continues the "It is very likely that some climates which at present appear to be anomalous will upon a more complete understanding of atmospheric controls, lose much of their unusual or enigmatic character, and seem to be more a part of the normal climatic pattern". Thus not only statistics, but physics also may be invoked in identifying problem climates. One other important constraint on the book's contents is that "its focus is the regional climates of the earth's larger land areas" (my italics).

The first edition, published in 1961, was a great success: in synthesizing much new research, and concentrating on areas of apparent extremes or other abnormalities, it met a definite need of its day. This second edition also contains much useful material, assembled with great skill and thoughtfulness, but whether it is still fulfilling a need is open to question.

The author claims that this new book is designed for "upper-level courses", and "to meet the needs of those interested in the professional aspects of climate" (whatever these may be). If this is so, it seems, where revision is slight, to be re-treading some already well-documented, and therefore not really familiar, terrain. Elsewhere it seems to be less thorough in its consideration of the atmospheric research and data-gathering than its serious reader would appreciate. And this is highlighted by the fact that only about 20 per cent of the reference list has been drawn from the (highly active) 1960s and 1970s.

In attempting to understand why this second edition does not fulfil the

promise of its predecessor, one might apply Professor Trewartha's own contention that, as times change and science and man's exploitation of his planetary home progress, so does the focus of attention in climatology also change. The root of the problem may be that the topic is now well covered by specialist texts on regional climatologies and even by some modern general texts.

How much more valuable it might have been if it had again broken fresh ground (and water and ice), in search of the changing pattern of apparent anomalies. Regions like the Persian Gulf, the Middle East, Alaska, Greenland, central USSR, the world's major oceans, in addition to the Equatorial Pacific, the fringes of Antarctica, and the central north and south polar regions now figure very prominently among areas of abnormality or incomplete understanding of atmospheric controls. They also figure prominently in the late twentieth century world of industry, commerce, trade and politics, in which there is a growing need for greater climatological knowledge and understanding in previously obscure regions.

Two deficiencies in presentation must be noted. The index is organized almost entirely along geographical lines, reading consequently more like a detailed synopsis of each chapter than the required listing of topics and phenomena. It is therefore singularly unhelpful to the reader intent on thematic matters, or physical and meteorological analogies. Finally, the rather sparse and generally small and unattractive figures do little to relieve the solid mass of the text.

E. C. Barrett

E. C. Barrett is reader in climatology and remote sensing in the department of geography at the University of Bristol.

## Scientia Sinica

Science in Contemporary China  
edited by Leo A. Orleans  
Stanford University Press, \$35.00  
ISBN 0 8047 1078 3

Whether you are looking for scientific detail or a general picture of recent progress and current policy, this admirable and thorough work should fit the bill. Quite simply, it is the best survey of Chinese science and technology yet available. Based on a collection of perceptive and detailed reports by American experts who have recently visited China, and agreeing closely with views noted by scientific delegations from the Royal Society in recent years, the survey's enormous content has been well marshalled and the resulting articles coordinated with little overlap.

Descriptions of modern science are set against a background of the past thirty years, during which time there have been three main phases of development. First, there was a period of steady improvement, heralded in 1949 by the fusion of the Academia Sinica in Nanjing with the National Academy of Sciences, Beijing, to form the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

More than a hundred research institutes of the Academia Sinica, the State Technology Commission and Science Planning Committee were soon set up, but their useful activities were stopped by the gang-of-four and the cultural revolution of 1966. Most contributors draw attention to the damaging effects of this period, which have led to the present shortage of trained manpower and trained science teachers, and to the present concentration on more urgent practical needs.

Mao Zedong died in 1976, and soon the gang-of-four were arrested, signalling a third phase of reorganization on a national scale, the aims of which were to improve agriculture and modernize industry if China was to "catch up" by the turn of the century. The Science and Technology Commission was re-established, titles were restored, societies and information services were revised, and control by the revolutionary committees ceased.

Contributors detail the present structure and functions of the R & D Technology Commission and the Science Planning Committee, the Academia of Sciences, governmental and technical institutes, and the universities. The academy has now regained its earlier authority: its research institutes are now expanding rapidly in size and number, with less central direction, and many are now located away from Beijing and Shanghai. Comprehensive technical universities have been enlarged and special institutes (concentrating for example on petroleum and petrochemicals) have been set up by the production ministries or provincial governments.

The major universities, after dwindling during the cultural revolution, have now revised their criteria for admission, emphasizing intellectual ability rather than political reliability. Broadly, effort is being placed on immediate practical needs, but there is now a growing appreciation by China's leaders of the significance of basic, sometimes even sophisticated, scientific research for longer term development and of the relevance of the social sciences. Examinations have been reformed, advanced science teaching and research is increasing, and scientific societies, journals and meetings have been re-introduced.

As the authors emphasize the expansion of technology will need many more engineers with a broad scientific training. The two main engineering universities, Tsinghua (Beijing) and Jiaotong (Shanghai) retain a distinguished position, but others like them may soon be established.

Appendices include the main speeches at the 1978 National Science Congress, lists of research institutes and institutions of higher education, of scientific societies and journals, and personal names of scientists (pinyin and Wade Giles equivalents).

Harold Thompson

Sir Harold Thompson is emeritus professor of chemistry at the University of Oxford. He was chairman of the Great Britain-China Committee from 1972-80.

## Astronomy observed

Cosmic Discovery: the search, scope and heritage of astronomy  
by Martin Harwit  
Harvester Press, £12.95  
ISBN 0 7108 0089 4

An end to short-term research contracts, the peer review system, national research centres and ten-year master plans for science - these, with some qualifications, are a few of the startling recommendations of this unusual book by Martin Harwit, professor of astronomy at Cornell. This is a book about how a science, astronomy, is planned and funded. Although it is very much directed at astronomers and those who plan astronomy, it raises issues pertinent to most sciences and provides some interesting and controversial angles on the sociology and history of science.

Harwit prosaically characterizes astronomy by a list of 43 greatest discoveries made during its history, a list consisting entirely of things. No idea appears in his list, so Copernicus's discovery that the planets go round the sun, Newton's discovery of the law of gravitation, Einstein's general theory of relativity, and Bethe's discovery of nuclear processes in stars, do not rate a mention.

Harwit places a lot of emphasis on the fact that many discoveries have grown out of technical advances made first by the military - for example, the growth of postwar radio-astronomy out of war-time radar - and attributes this to the greater willingness of the military to back fringe research. It seems more plausible, however, to attribute the technical advances made by the military to the immense budgets available.

The potted histories of Harwit's 43 discoveries, comprising about a third of the book and ranging from stars at number one, planets at two, down to gamma-ray bursts at 42, and unidentified radio-sources at 43, are nevertheless interesting. He then characterizes astronomical observations by angular, spectral and time resolution, wavelength, and so on, and provides a very valuable analysis of the fundamental limitations to each of these parameters. But he gets rather carried away with a discussion of the phase space of these observational parameters and some detailed consideration of information theory, neither of which seem really necessary.

Harwit postulates that each advance of a factor of about one thousand in any observational parameter leads to a new discovery and concludes after an elaborate calculation that there are therefore only about 90 discoveries yet to be made. While the pedantry of this approach may be laughable, the conclusion is surely correct. The golden age of astronomy we have lived through will soon come to an end.

What of Harwit's recommendations for astronomy? I agree with most of them. It is obviously essential that researchers entering astronomy should have a thorough training in physics, that we should be looking to bring new techniques into the field, that researchers could be encouraged to change field in mid-career, that the amount of time spent writing research proposals and reports is absurd, that ways could be found of phasing out disciplines and facilities which are no longer productive, and that a peer review system which seems to concentrate on the research proposal rather than on the past record of the researcher is ridiculous. Nevertheless, there has to be a plan for science, otherwise space can never be found for large new projects. Perhaps the Science Research Council's system of a rolling "forward look", updated each year, is not a bad one.

This is a book that anyone interested in science and its management will find informative, provoking and, in parts, fascinating.

Michael Rowan-Robinson

Michael Rowan-Robinson is reader in astronomy at Queen Mary College, London.

## Introducing International Folklore Review

FOLKLORE STUDIES FROM OVERSEAS

Editor Venetia Newall

Articles on aspects of folklore in Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania; the attitudes of Agnon and Brenner to Hebrew folklore; traditional aspects of story-telling; animal portraits in folk tale; and folklore and the nuclear age.

Volume 1, 1981: 26

Chapter House Bookshop  
12 Gregories Rd, Beaconsfield



# BOOKS

## With God on their side

The Physicists: a generation that changed the world  
by C. P. Snow  
Macmillan, £8.95  
ISBN 0 333 32228 2

The Physicist is a first draft, completed just before his death on July 1, 1980, of a book which Lord Snow intended to expand. It is the story of physicists from 1900 to the present day and of how their work has affected the world. It contains an introduction by his lifelong friend, William Cooper, the novelist. Cooper remembers that when Snow first told him about the project, he said "Good God, you'll have to do some research for that, won't you?" To which Snow replied "I'm writing it largely from memory".

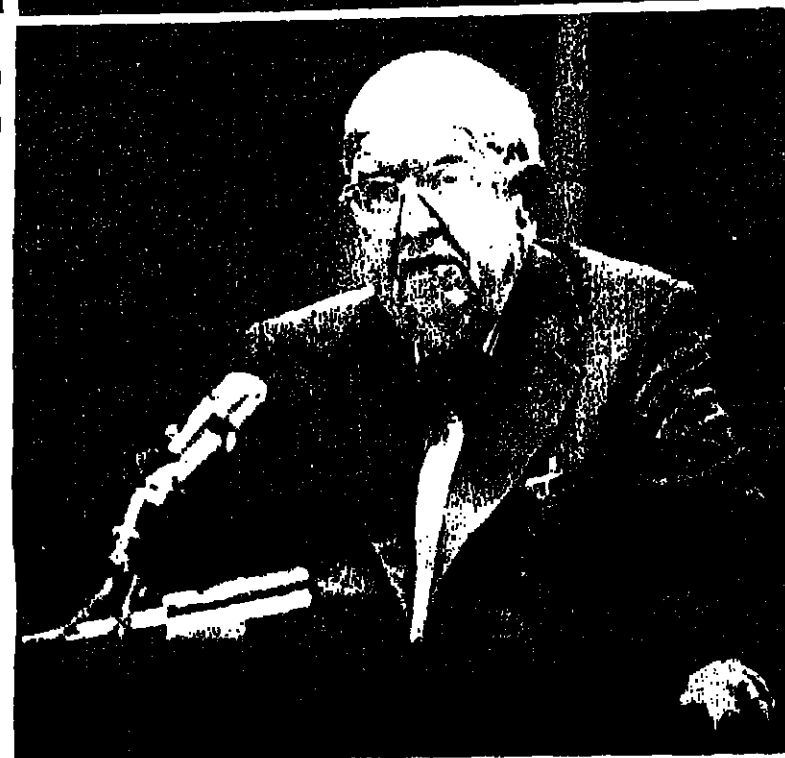
As a result, there are certainly some mistakes. James Franck becomes Josef Franck, A. H. Compton is described as a British physicist. Also the book is perhaps unbalanced, concentrating as it does on atomic and nuclear physics in the 1930s, the bomb, and the particle physicists in the postwar period. Rather short sections on molecular biology, radio-astronomy and silicon chips seem added as an afterthought, and solid-state physics is not mentioned. But William Cooper writes that Snow meant to expand that part of the book.

The story of the physicists has often been written, dramatically as in Robert Jung's *Brighter than a Thousand Suns*, as history in Margaret Gowing's scholarly books on atomic energy, and by many other authors. It is not as history that this book will be read. Those who enjoy Snow's novels - and in spite of Leavis I am among those who do - appreciate his insights into how men on committees behave in the struggle for power, what it is like to be a scientist and what the pressures on a scientist are. Here Snow writes about the scientists he has known, instead of transmitting them into the characters of his novels. The reader will look to see if Snow gives any new understanding of the period he describes and if it gives the feel of how creative research really happened.

I must confess to a certain disappointment: after *The Search and the Masters* I expected more. There are certainly some good character sketches, particularly of Rutherford; but I think physicists, who already know what it is like to do research, will find more to enjoy in the book than non-scientists, to whom I commend the novels, if they want to get the feel of a career in science. For the scientists there are interesting comments, more by Snow the novelist than by Snow the physicist. For instance, he unreservedly praises the decision of scientists during the war to work on the atomic bomb. "There was no scientist or anyone else involved who didn't believe that the work was necessary. That included Einstein and Bohr, who were among the loftiest and most benign spirits of our species. They don't need to receive moral instructions from persons who did not live inside the situation".

On the future, in an address delivered in 1960 to the American Association for the Advancement of Science, reproduced in this book, he wrote that, if there is no disarmament, "within, at most, ten years some of those bombs are going to go off. I am saying this as responsibly as I can. That is a certainty". I have heard Snow, and many others, speak in this vein. He now says, I believe more realistically, that "nuclear war between the superpowers will continue to remain a dread, like a fear of mortal disease, but will continue to have a low degree of probability".

He has an interesting theory on why Khrushchev refused to work on the Soviet hydrogen bomb. He suggests that he felt himself more useful to his country as a privileged man who



C. P. Snow delivering a lecture at the University of Texas on 29 March, 1979.

could speak out and denounce follies than by doing a job under tight security that others could do just as well.

He comments on the religious beliefs of physicists and particularly those of a recent Nobel prize winner, Abdus Salam, who is a devout Muslim, and says that he is the only committed religious believer in the doctrinal sense among all the great theoreticians. In this I think he is incorrectly informed, unless his concept of greatness has made him very restrictive.

Perhaps an overriding theme in the book is how fortunate physicists are, how happy in their work, and how often - even if they do not believe in them - they are on the side of the angels. In 1960 he wrote: "there is no doubt that scientific activity is both beautiful and truthful. I cannot prove it, but I believe that, simply because scientists cannot escape their own knowledge, they won't be able to avoid showing themselves disposed to good". These words are reproduced at the end of this book, and the whole of it shows that these were his beliefs until his last days.

The book contains some excellent illustrations, mainly of physicists but also of events that he describes.

### Nevill Mott

Sir Nevill Mott is emeritus professor of physics at the University of Cambridge. He was joint-winner (with P. W. Anderson and J. H. Van Vleck) of the Nobel Prize for physics in 1977.

## Geological modules

Geoscience Texts  
Volume 1: Principles of Mineral Behaviour

by A. Putnis and J. D. C. McConnell  
Blackwell Scientific, £18.00 and £9.80  
ISBN 0 632 00583 1 and 00045 3  
Volume 2: An Introduction to Ore Geology  
by Anthony M. Evans  
Blackwell Scientific, £16.00 and £7.50  
ISBN 0 632 00655 X and 00574 2  
Volume 3: Sedimentary Petrology, an Introduction  
by M. E. Tucker  
Blackwell Scientific, £8.50  
ISBN 0 632 00074 0

Geoscience Texts set out to be a series of modules, aimed at students, each on a single sub-area of modern geology. There is nothing new in this, and rather than using recent developments in science and education methods, the first three volumes are in relatively traditional areas and contain nothing new in their approach.

The first, Putnis and McConnell's *Principles of Mineral Behaviour*, is an example of how not to launch a new series of undergraduate texts. It is turgid, conceptually dense and

specialized to the point of indulgence. To be confronted by 64 separate headings in the list of contents will give readers a sinking feeling that either they are in for something very superficial or a crammed mass of theory.

It turns out to be the latter, with no quarter given. Nothing is summarized, nothing recapitulated for students given any opportunity to check on their progress and understanding. I found the topic curiously limited, to transformation of, and within single minerals, related to changing environmental conditions. The central phenomena are polymorphic, order-disorder and exsolution transformations, with nothing on multiphase solid-state reactions, melting, crystallization and interactions between solids, melts and vapour phases. Consequently there is no cover of the advances in igneous and metamorphic studies that has in the past ten years stemmed from theoretical mineralogy and thermodynamics.

The subject is taken into realms of detail that few students will either master or find useful in a career. Nor will any practical experience be possible, in the main, since the phenomena described must be viewed with a transmission electron microscope - surely never to be a bench-top tool. What we have here is a postgraduate reference text, that in any case is left far behind in the teaching of thermodynamics, its theoretical core, by at least two other recent books. To cap it all, the innumerable line drawings seem to have been drawn using a quill, with hand-written or stencilled annotations.

The second try, Evans's *An Introduction to Ore Geology*, lacks structure and therefore never really gets to grips with its subject. The bulk consists of a welter of terse descriptions in the vein of "the mercury-bearing stockworks of Dubnik in Slovakia are sometimes pear-shaped" (page 9). This vast stock of thumbnail sketches leaves little space in which to develop any idea of what really went on when an ore deposit formed.

The omissions are numerous, but the most glaring concern the fundamental geochemical principles, the blind concentrations of rare elements to an economic grade. Missing, along with the geochemical affinities of elements and the physico-chemical reasons for them, are treatments of partition coefficients, models of fractionation in the crust and mantle, and the sources of heat for mineralizing processes. Yet here and there such advanced geochemical topics as Eh-pH diagrams and stable isotopes are thrown at the student with little explanation. Another curious omission is any sort of guide to the practical study of orebodies.

Finally, despite the author's pious words about the common complaint by employers that geology graduates rarely show any glimmer of commercial awareness, we get only two and a half pages on mining economics. There is nothing on ore inventories, estimation of pit costs, statistical prediction of undiscovered deposits

and the potential value of new exploration areas, technical difficulties controlled directly by geological features, or even the role of a geologist in a mining company. What virtue there is in this book lies with the excellent maps and sections of many classic deposits, but these are also in many of its more dated but better conceived competitors.

It came as something of a surprise to find that in the third volume, Tucker's *Sedimentary Petrology*, the series finally gets it right, or rather the author does. "Friendly" is a buzz word in computer software circles that means easily used by virtually anyone, and it applies very well in this case. The book is well laid out, easy in style, carefully illustrated, comprehensive but succinct with no frills, consistent in level and surprising, compelling to browse through.

The introduction really does set the scene to what can be done with sediments and how to set about doing it. The main text concentrates on the rocks themselves, their constituents and textures, acknowledging that other good books on environmental and facies analysis do exist, and referring to them rather than clogging up the central theme. Each chapter has a reading list and more advanced material is cited and listed at the end, the emphasis being on the modern rather than classic. The chapters each cover a major group of sediments mainly in terms of field appearance and laboratory study.

One pleasant surprise is the treatment of a fearsome technique - graphic logging. No obsession here with its bureaucratic aspects but a simple exposition of just how useful it can be in organizing data for environmental analysis. There are strong emphases on sediment groups that have important economic connotations such as carbonates. Throughout there is an air that here is a subject, sometimes scorned, that could form the basis of a career and an interesting one at that.

I am left with the impression that the problem with this series derives from a bad editorial brief to authors about level, presentation and style, combined with lack of clarity about the overall concept.

Stephen A. Drury

Stephen A. Drury is lecturer in earth sciences at the Open University.

## A systems approach

Analysis and Design of Dynamic Systems  
by Ira Cochran  
Harper & Row, £17.50  
ISBN 0 700 22531 5

If system is hardly more than a cliché in general usage, in engineering parlance it is at best a vague term implying an assembly of interacting elements with some discernible function or product resulting from a stimulus. On this basis systems are all around, serving out needs as essential features of things like domestic appliances, process plants, Concordes and fast breeder reactors.

As a topic system dynamics is an outgrowth of the monumental post-war development of control theory. It has gathered momentum since the mid-1960s with the publication of texts by Cannon, Seely and others, who aimed at spreading a unified control-based approach and methodology, using essentially linear lumped-parameter modelling, transfer functions and related response and stability concepts for applications over the whole spectrum of engineering activity wherever dynamic performance is a criterion.

The value of the systems approach as a tool in modern multi-disciplinary engineering design is being recognized and increasing weight is being given to the subject in undergraduate curricula. There is also a tendency for writers to exaggerate the role. In many specialized areas the systems approach offers nothing new nor any improvement over existing techniques.

The author of this latest addition to the systems literature contends

that his book is suitable for undergraduate courses in vibrations, dynamics and design as well as for an integrated systems course. Its 800 pages, in 17 chapters with an appendix, and its choice of topics, extensive use of case studies and lavish graphics gave me an initial impression of a comprehensive manual of system dynamics.

The first half of the book is a standard development of basic systems concepts starting with parameter modelling of a variety of physical systems elements and progressing through solutions of differential equations, Laplace transforms and frequency response techniques. The remaining chapters are strongly design- and synthesis-oriented and cover topics in high order systems, the author's systems shorthand, and vibrations. The final two chapters deal with standard control theory.

I was impressed by the variety of realistic case studies and worked examples over a wide range of applications but my overall reaction was disappointment and indeed disgust on a large number of points of detail in the text. The book turned out to be pitched at a surprisingly elementary level with many of the moderately advanced topics in systems theory being absent or merely hinted at. For example, important analytical tools such as root locus and convolution are not covered and the central topic of stability is given a most inadequate semi-descriptive treatment. Yet the book is extremely long, mainly because of a ponderous development of elementary ideas with needless detail and repetition.

Where the book reached its most sophisticated levels in the later chapters I found interesting items, some highly specialized contributions for high order systems and some useful illustrations of the distinctive systems approach to design problems. But I was conscious of a good deal of preposterous material. Some sections gave a most optimistic guide to the content and in a number of the worked examples, realistic problems were grossly oversimplified to the extent that I felt a false sense of expertise was being communicated. There were wide variations in the quality of the writing and numerous instances where I found myself opposed to the author's interpretations.

Finally, I noted the absence of the digital or sampled data systems content. Systems writers like Dr Cochran must be alive to the massive switch of emphasis and growth of interest taking place in digital techniques. It is precisely in the systems area that the microprocessor is working out its revolution - in process control, automation and robotics - and there is an urgent need to evolve systems coursework at all levels to assist the engineering community to exploit the power of the new technology.

I am forced to conclude that the book has little status as an authoritative reference on systems, and compares unfavourably with alternatives as a text for British undergraduates because of its limited scope. What it has to offer is development of elementary systems ideas and even this presentation of some basic concepts.

J. W. Roberts

J. W. Roberts is lecturer in mechanical engineering at the University of Edinburgh.

The first printed edition of William Hobbs's early eighteenth-century theory of the Earth, the manuscript theory which was first discovered in 1973, has been published by the University Press in association with the British Museum (Natural History), at £24.50. The full text of *The Earth Generated and Anatomized* has been edited by Roy Porter, who also provides an introduction with commentary and references.

A fifth edition of Peter Sykes's *A Guidebook to Mechanisms in Organic Chemistry* has been published by Longman at £6.95. While retaining the same general framework, the book has been revised in a number of particulars. One of the major changes is the addition of a chapter on linear free energy relationships, which describes attempts to relate structure and reactivity to quantitative basis.

# BOOKS

## AMERICAN STUDIES

## Conditions of race

A Piece of the Pie: blacks and white immigrants since 1880  
by Stanley Lieberson  
University of California Press, £20.75 and £7.50  
ISBN 0 520 04123 2

From the 1880s onwards, immigration to the United States increased and its sources diversified, while simultaneously black and white Americans strove to refashion their relationships after the failure of the post-Civil War efforts to achieve racial justice. Against a background of rapid economic change, blacks and immigrants alike faced material hardship, discrimination and pressure to conform to established white ways. But it is generally agreed that during the twentieth century the "new immigrants" from Southern, Central and Eastern Europe fared better than American blacks.

Many scholars concerned to explain the growing contrast between the two groups have pointed to the more severe racial discrimination and inferior opportunities encountered by blacks. In recent times, however, white ethnics facing economic hardship or the implications of "reverse discrimination" have been tempted to point to their own hard struggles and the role of "superior" values and norms in overcoming them. Accordingly, complaints about white racism have sometimes been dismissed as "excuses". Moreover, it could be demonstrated that the Chinese and Japanese in the United States had not been permanently held back on account of race.

See the black-white gap is undeniable. The importance of the explanation of it is proposed remedies and race relations as a whole is obvious. Professor Lieberson's big, bold and fascinating volume is consequently important for political as well as academic reasons. His work concentrates on the origins of black-immigrant differences, and, with the aid of considerable new quantitative evidence, he has both modified and confirmed the traditional scholarly argument. After an account of the current state of that argument and the conditions of blacks and new immigrants during the latter's initial period of settlement, Lieberson looks at their respective political and legal circumstances, education, degree of residential segregation, occupations and relations with employers and unions. Lieberson's major methodological contribution is his attempt to provide data about the various groups by generation and length of residence in the United States. Also, because cultural and racial qualities are still confused, and the influence of cultural values is so difficult to measure, his section on education is especially valuable. Here Lieberson clearly demonstrates that the black desire for instruction at every level long matched and even often exceeded that of the new immigrants. In this context it would have been useful to have a discussion of the impact of the content of available education on new immigrants and blacks, and of the failure by white educators to provide adequately that kind of vocational education for which each was allegedly fitted.

Bleakwater, Lieberson's findings support existing contentions that the new immigrants shared some of the problems as blacks; that the differences between the experiences of northern and southern blacks can be traced, as can the impact of slavery by the twentieth century; and that prejudice against blacks was more intense, with a discriminatory "queue" of economic opportunities developing rather than a ladder which all might hope to mount. He also confirms the importance of the cessation of new and black immigration long before the two were thus able to capitalize on whatever advantages they possessed. What emerges is a book in which the complexity of racial and ethnic factors and the social causes of racial conflict

are convincingly depicted. Lieberson enjoys his statistics but is at pains to convey their limitations. Since the pre-1940 statistics have many gaps, one finds, even in chapters rich in regression equations, resort to "one may speculate..." and "I suspect...". But it is reassuring to find that insight into motive is as difficult to provide via mathematics as it is by any other route.

Lieberson is concerned with the origins of present problems, and is an academic not a politician. He therefore reasonably avoids policy proposals. But he does remark on, for example, the current level of black unemployment, black pressures on school systems, and the political demands of blacks, making one wish that he had continued his story more fully in some areas for the crucial years after World War II. An expansion of the chapters on jobs would have been particularly helpful, not least so as to evaluate the effect of changing attitudes to blacks in the American labour movement.

Christine Bolt

Christine Bolt is reader in American history at the University of Kent.

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Christine Bolt

## Colonial riches

Wealth of a Nation to Be: the American colonies on the eve of the Revolution  
by Alice Hanson Jones  
Columbia University Press, \$31.25  
ISBN 0 231 03659 0

Although the study of poverty has attracted much attention in the last twenty years it is surprising how little has been paid to the study of wealth. Yet the study of wealth-holding illuminates, among other things, how much wealth is owned by how few, and describes the base from which inequalitarianism operates.

It is undeniable that those working in the field of wealth-holding face massive problems when trying to collect and interpret their evidence. There is a natural reluctance among those that possess hugely disproportionate amounts of the world's goods to reveal the precise extent of their shares. Societies have respected the desire for privacy, which is not restricted to the very rich, and have more or less given up the attempt to persuade citizens to own up to their assets in public. In 1850 the United States Department of the Interior, through the decennial census, asked Americans to declare the value of their real estate; in 1860 and 1870 the value of both personal and real estate; but in 1880, in the enigmatic words of Carroll D. Wright, these inquiries "were dropped" from the census. Consequently the history of wealth-holding in the United States is generally bedevilled by a lack of hard data.

Professor Jones's work thus lies in a field much given to conjecture and speculation. Her courage in attempting to describe wealth-holding in the statistical Dark Ages before 1840 is particularly to be applauded. Her honesty in admitting that her data are far from perfect and her willingness to explain in minute particulars their deficiencies speak to the highest standards of scholarship. Critical comments that her honesty has revealed too much about the gaps in her evidence are unfair. Short of waiting possibly forever for the discovery of further evidence someone has to be bold enough to try to bridge between the islands of fact and non-fact. It is not to deny that Professor Jones's background gives her as good a right as any to build the connections. The present work is the fruit of some forty years' cogitation. We may disagree with her deeply considered interpolations, her imaginative leaps and the precise ratios she chooses to establish between known and unknown data, but she never attempts to conceal her methods or to disguise the weak points, while her use of alternative sources has been as full as possible. The problem with the work is, however, that it does require a suspension of academic disbelief at times, something academic historians in particular find difficult.

Professor Jones bases her study on 919 wills probated in 1774, from 21 counties. Given (as it happens) from only 10 of the 13 colonies. Inadequate



Virginia Poe, née Clemm, a watercolour drawing made after her death, taken from an Edgar Allan Poe Companion.

ate data for New York, one of the 10, must lead to anxieties about the findings for the Middle Colonies, as will the exclusion of York County, Pennsylvania; lack of any coverage of New Hampshire, Rhode Island or Georgia will lead to others. The willingness to accept general conclusions will depend directly on whether the reader is ready to agree with Professor Jones's ratio between wealth owned by those leaving wills and those not leaving wills, which is entirely the product of educated guesswork. Professor Jones is unable to produce this ratio for anything smaller than a region which clearly obscures distinctions between, for instance, counties. Her data on the ownership of real estate is weaker outside New England, that is Massachusetts and Connecticut, than within, while her praiseworthy desire to estimate net worth of decedents by including debts as well as assets in the final appraisal of wealth runs into problems with evidence once again.

None the less, some of her conclusions are worth stating as probably defensible regardless of weaknesses in methods. She suggests, for instance, that the traditional views of a social divide between creditors and debtors as between rich and poor, is inaccurate. The rich, as ever, having high creditworthiness were usually the greatest debtors. She also underlines the relative poverty of New England at the Revolution, suggesting that the Puritan ethic could be of limited effect; and she points out that the region had high levels of inequality, in money perhaps, the traditional view of the social differences between the South and New England. Occasionally she presents her findings with an éclat that surprises: making much of her discovery that wills show that Southerners held slaves while Northerners did not. In distinguishing wealth by socioeconomic level she admits a highly unsatisfactory category of "Esquires, gentlemen, officials". But at the end of the day her work will please those influenced by its standards of scholarship and its respect for ascertainable truth.

We are now clearer about the shape of wealth-holding in the American colonies in 1774 even if the mists of time obscure the precise dimensions.

R. A. Burchell

R. A. Burchell is senior lecturer in American history and institutions at the University of Manchester.

## Writer and outcast

An Edgar Allan Poe Companion: a guide to the short stories, romances and essays  
by J. R. Hammond  
Macmillan, £15.00  
ISBN 0 333 27571 3

This general introduction to Poe's works begins with an outline of his life, emphasizing particularly how often Poe was confronted with illness and death, from his mother's final consumption through to his wife's rupture of a blood vessel and subsequent decline. Hammond argues that two important influences in Poe's life were the early loss of his parents and his travelling in England and Scotland. In view of the tenacity of myths about Poe's supposed drug addiction and alcoholism, Hammond tactfully disentangles Poe's career from the charges of degeneracy made by his executor Rufus Griswold, and he only makes biographical references where they are relevant; for example, when he notes that William Wilson's birthday was originally identical with Poe's.

Hammond reminds us that Poe was a diverse writer, of course known for his *Tales of the Grotesque and Arabesque* and for his poems but also a humorist, critic, and book reviewer (Poe predicted the outcome of *Barnaby Rudge* so precisely that Dickens exclaimed "the man must be the devil"). In addition Poe was an important essayist, produced two long narratives and even wrote an introduction and preface to a school textbook on shells. Hammond reveals this variety in a dictionary of Poe's productions, giving details of original publications and an outline of their contents.

There were, according to Hammond, two Poes: the writer determined to leave a permanent mark on

American literature, and the solitary outcast. We can see the one in the serious professionalism of Poe's reviews and satires, and glimpse the other in the tales of terror. The latter obviously raises the question of his connexion with the Gothic tradition, but Hammond only gives passing references to Mrs Rackhelf, Coleridge and Mary Shelley. Much of the information Hammond supplies revolves around the circumstances of publication, although he does also offer many critical comments, which vary from the banal (the tales are relevant to the human condition) to shrewd generalizations (that the reader participates vicariously in extreme predicaments).

Hammond surveys the tales, romances, essays and poems in separate chapters, emphasizing Poe's skills at "atmospherics" and his use of circumstantial detail, (the description of William Wilson's rambling Elizabethan school, for example) which offset the tales' strangeness and, in giving the illusion of reportage, suggest a debt to Defoe. Furthermore, Poe was a man of broad interests which ranged from mesmerism to cryptography and galvanism: "Some Words with a Mummy" uses the same notion of electrically reviving a corpse as inspired Mary Shelley. In examining the essays Hammond rightly draws attention to the importance of Poe's theorizing on the short story and his debt to Coleridge and Shelley; in dealing with the poems he surveys the search for eternal beauty and recognizes their narrowness, yet surprisingly says little about their constant morbid association of beauty with death.

An index to Poe's characters and a select list of Poe criticism confirm that this book is aimed at the average reader, for whom it will provide an interesting and accurate companion to the works.

David Seed

David Seed is lecturer in English at the University of Liverpool.

## American Politics

### The Promise of Disharmony

**SAMUEL P. HUNTINGTON** argues that the antagonism between the ideals of democracy and the realities of power leads to a fundamental disharmony in American politics. This persistent conflict gives rise to radical reform movements that are restorative or conservative, and produces dilemmas in American foreign policy. This controversial analysis will become a classic commentary on the meaning of America. "A liberating insight; a brilliant book". *Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan*. Belknap, published November 1981, £10.50. Also by Samuel P. Huntington and now available in paperback at £6.30. *The Soldier and the State: The Theory & Politics of Civil-Military Relations*.

**Harvard University Press**  
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# BOOKS

AMERICAN  
STUDIES

## Birth of a notion

**Settlement and Unsettled in Early America: the crisis of political legitimacy before the Revolution** by Kenneth A. Lockridge  
Cambridge University Press, £9.50  
ISBN 0 521 23707 6

**Explaining America: the Federalist** by Garry Wills  
Athlone Press, £14.50  
ISBN 0 485 30003 6

American government has, from its earliest days, given rise to problems that were not easily or rapidly resolved. A closeness to (which some might hold to approach dependence upon) British precedents and political philosophy did not provide satisfactory answers; borrowed phrases would not necessarily answer other questions, any more than English institutions could secure acceptance and establishment in the different environments of New World societies. Above all, principles and powers set aside, the issue of government turned on recognition of its authority and prevention of a disruption into hostile and destructive interests which would fatally damage rule by general consent.

Until the new nation possessed its own acknowledged and defined political structure, confirmed and tested by national experience, such difficulties, and the fears to which they as yet unknown extent gave rise, would remain far more evident than any prospect of a brilliant and assured future.

● **Women in America**  
A Guide to Books, 1953-1975  
with an Appendix on Books  
Published 1976-1979.  
Barbara Haber  
November, 288 pp, paper £4.90

● **Women and American Socialism, 1870-1920**  
Mari Jo Buhle  
January, 370 pp, £14.00

● **One Third of a Nation**  
Lorena Hickok Reports on the  
Great Depression  
Richard Lowitt & Maurice  
Beasley, eds.  
October, 380 pp, £13.30

● **Plain Folk**  
The Life Stories of  
Undistinguished Americans  
David Katzman &  
Wm. Tuttle Jr., eds.  
January, 148 pp, cloth £13.95,  
paper £2.30

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No matter how exciting and significant the outlook might have seemed to an optimist such as Tom Paine, the assertions contained in *Common Sense* won little sympathy and less support from the most prominent of the revolutionary generation. Adams, Hamilton, even Jefferson, but especially James Madison, were far more aware of political dangers than of rewards; as Kenneth Lockridge observes, "It was a puzzling and chilly world which Madison depicted". Perhaps with a current and widespread recognition of this condition, the thoughts of Madison have become a topic of renewed interest and concern.

Professor Lockridge's lectures are, if somewhat slight in detail, stimulating in approach. His account, as far as he has carried it, relies upon recent scholarly studies to provide an analysis of political structures in colonial Massachusetts and Virginia. In neither case, he concludes, was authority assured of recognition in all parts and at all levels of these two quite distinct societies prior to the Revolution. New England witnessed challenges to provincial authority by forms of local sentiment which, if they were, in the strict sense of the term, "reactionary", nevertheless continued to resist "a hierarchical principle of legitimacy" as it developed as a doctrine of the colonial elite. In Virginia such a group of would-be gentry had sought to dominate at a much earlier time, and its struggle to secure acknowledgment of inferiority from the common people had been long, hard, and ultimately unsuccessful. The outbreak of the Revolution confused but did not extinguish these basic controversies.

Peace permitted the reappearance of stresses and strains which it was thought, even if it could not be proved, would be fatal to social peace. Shays' Rebellion, though it achieved nothing else, demonstrated the need for a new Constitution. How this proposal would accommodate, if not finally conclude, such threats was to be set out in Madison's contributions to *The Federalist*. Lockridge's conclusion can be taken as marking the point of departure of four volumes to deal with the creation and content of the basic instruments of American politics. The first book considered the making of the Declaration of Independence and subsequent accounts will extend to the Constitution and the Supreme Court. *Explaining America* is devoted to a formal analysis of *The Federalist* and extracts from its three authors. Readers must be prepared to encounter arguments presented in a disconcerting blend of colloquial and academic styles and expressed in alarmingly compressed forms. An appearance of literary haste does not advance the understanding of complex themes.

Following Douglas Adair, to whose pioneering work ample tribute is rendered, Professor Wills lays emphasis on the particular origins of the ideas to be found in *The Federalist*, and underlines the importance of the writings of David Hume (who does not, however, succeed in gaining admission to the index). The contrast of political views between Hamilton, the putative autocrat, and Madison, the harbinger of democracy, is shown to be more exaggerated. Madison's contribution to the papers is treated most seriously, and perhaps unduly so. The circumstances of composition are mentioned only as a prelude to rigorous analysis. This seems both a compliment to Madison and also, to employ one of Professor Wills's less fortunate terms, "a show-stopper". Produced at the rate of a thousand words a day for an immediate political purpose it would seem improbable that academic scrutiny would confirm a theoretical content of exact precision. And in this case it is the critic, not the original author, who seems to have proceeded too speedily into print. Judged by this volume, Professor Wills might do well to complete his ambitious project at a rate which will enable his powers of analysis to be demonstrated more persuasively.

**Peter Marshall**

Peter Marshall is professor of American history and institutions at the University of Manchester.

Cambridge University Press have recently published a collection of essays, edited by Charles A. Ferguson and Shirley Brice Heath entitled *Language in the USA* (£30.00 and £12.50).

## Budding romance

**The Development of American Romance: the sacrifice of relation** by Michael Davitt Bell  
University of Chicago Press, £13.50  
ISBN 0 226 04211 1

The question of whether nineteenth-century American fiction should be classified as novel or romance has been widely canvassed in recent years. The controversy has been intensified by the zeal of the American academic for the placement of the work of creative artists in well-defined and limited categories. Such an undertaking - because destined to failure - is a fertile field for unending argument.

In his study of the subject Professor Michael Davitt Bell has taken a fresh approach. At the outset he asks two simple but related questions. What did the authors themselves mean by using (as they often did) the term "romance" to describe their work? And what did it mean to be a romancer in the practical, utilitarian world of nineteenth-century America?

The first question is one that Hawthorne set out to answer in his description of the world of romance as "a neutral territory, somewhere between the real world and fairyland, where the Actual and the Imaginary may meet, and each imbue itself with the nature of the other."

Both Hawthorne and Melville felt it necessary to justify their creative method to a world which they knew to be unsympathetic to the sensibility which lay behind it. Each was aware of the kind of critique that was later articulated in a preface by Henry James, in which he suggests that romance must involve "the sacrifice of community, of the 'related' sides of situations". This elliptical observation by Henry James provides, in a blunter form, the sub-title of Professor Bell's book and the main thrust of his argument. Indeed he seems ultimately to endorse the Jamesian viewpoint, speaking of "the failure of American romance". In which "the sacrifice of relation has been fully and fatally realized".

This argument is at least as old as Socrates, although it was cast in a new form in the context of the New World, which seemed to demand a fresh sensibility and a different mode of expression. Professor Bell traces the quest for such a mode from earlier writers such as Charles Brockden Brown and Washington Irving, to the full flowering of the great period of American romance in the mid-century.

The defensive note which can be found in these writers' references to their own work is linked to the second question which Professor Bell explores. What did it mean to be a romancer in a society dedicated to morality and common sense? We are faced with the paradox of a nation that devalued the work of Byron and Sir Walter Scott, but denied sustenance to its own romancers.

How did the creative artist feel in such an environment? How did he manage to survive? Professor Bell troubles up some, rather dated sociological artillery. "Labelling theory," he informs us, "understands both 'normality' and 'deviancy' as counters in an ongoing game rather than as absolutes." One's heart sinks when confronted by this kind of thing. Indeed there is a sense throughout the book that one is being pounded into submission by the leaden weight of Professor Bell's prose, while escapes to the index are scattered by the grasp of his footnotes.

The value of the work, as so often with American academic criticism, lies in the thoroughness of its research and in the use made of secondary sources. The work does however serve the useful purpose of establishing that the writers of nineteenth-century American fiction regarded themselves as creators of romance, albeit apprehensively. And that should serve to clarify the terms of future discussion of the subject. It can hardly hope to conclude it.

**Timothy Kidd**

Timothy Kidd is lecturer in English at Trinity College, Cambridge.



Jazz player John Coltrane, from James Lincoln Collier's *The Making of Jazz*: a comprehensive history (Macmillan paperback, £5.95).

## Who likes Ike?

**Eisenhower and the Cold War** by Robert A. Divine  
Oxford University Press, £7.50  
ISBN 0 19 502833 6

Until the upheavals of the mid-1960s, American presidential history in the twentieth century seemed to fall into a neat and symmetrical pattern. Largely the creation of liberal historians favourably disposed to wards executive activism at home and abroad, the picture was of tedious Republicans - Harding, Coolidge, Hoover and Eisenhower - alternating with the dashing Democrats - Wilson, Roosevelt, Truman and Kennedy. Johnson, Nixon and their successors have confounded this picture.

It is not merely that Reagan, like Nixon before him, has the nerve to be a Republican and an activist, and clearly of the wrong sort for the liberal-minded, but that Johnson and Vietnam exposed the whole record of Democratic crusading to severe scrutiny. The result has been various species of revisionism in which Hoover and Eisenhower have achieved new respectability - Harding and Coolidge, awfully elevated, and the historians would probably require the aid of supernatural powers to raise them up - while the Democrats have been brought down to earth.

Robert Divine is a revisionist to the extent that he writes "with a basic sympathy for a badly underrated President", but his revisionism has nothing to do with that radical variety which explains American Cold War foreign policy as the consequence of expansive capitalism. There is no talk here of business pressure on government, except in the case of the train crisis of 1953 when, with the acquiescence of the American government, the oil companies took full advantage of the situation to boost their profits (and on this Divine is strangely unreflective). Nor is there any mention of the "military-industrial complex", about which Eisenhower saw fit to

**Richard Crockatt**

Richard Crockatt is lecturer in history at the University of East Anglia.

# BOOKS

AMERICAN  
STUDIES

## Journey to evil

**Sanctuary: the original text** by William Faulkner  
Edited by Noel Polk  
Canto & Windus, £9.95  
ISBN 0 7011 3900 5

Not people with any knowledge of American literature are probably aware of the history of *Sanctuary* - or, rather, that version of its history which Faulkner, an inveterate teller of tall tales, chose to offer to the world. According to him, the novel was originally "a cheap idea" concocted to make money. "I invented the most horrific tale I could imagine," he claimed, "and wrote it in about three weeks." When, however, he received the *Sanctuary* play he felt the book was so "badly written" that he decided to rewrite it. And he made a "fair job" of the rewriting, he claimed modestly, transforming the horrific tale into "something which would not shame *The Sound and the Fury* and *As I Lay Dying*."

The story is a good one: but, as this book reveals, it tends to conflict with the facts. The original text, or what one critic has called the *Ur-Sanctuary*, is radically different from the version published in 1931, certainly to call it horrific, however, or suggest as Faulkner did that it was "badly conceived seems to be an odd way of describing the differences."

*Ur-Sanctuary* is, in fact, a brooding, deeply meditative piece of work, and it is dominated by the individual figure of Horace Benbow. The first six chapters are given over to Benbow; elsewhere the narrative constantly refers us back to his obsessions, and everything in which he is involved is filtered through his mind. Given that Benbow is a moody, withdrawn character, it gives the story an uncommonly introspective quality; and it seems to be said, allows the reader to indulge himself occasionally in the world-weary elegance of certain passages, describing and expounding Benbow's "after literary brain de lair, in which he recalls the *fin de siècle* writers whom the young Faulkner admired so much. Above all, the effect of having so much of the story told to us by Benbow, through conversation, association, and memory, is to produce a complicated narrative structure. The story begins, for instance, with Benbow in jail awaiting trial and then leads the reader on a slow, meandering journey backwards and forwards in time in order to reveal the causes and consequences of his predicament.

Along with Benbow, the various members of his family are also explored in more detail than in the original version. Miss Jenny, for example, is more of a presence, partly because like so many of Faulkner's women she seems to embody the traditions which haunt and oppress her younger relatives. And there is a peculiar importance here to the Quentin Compson, Benbow's fiancée, at one point, he tries to dissuade his sister from marriage, suggesting that he and she

should remain together living for each other. Other characters were to be expanded in the revision. This is especially true of Popeye, who here does not appear until halfway through the second chapter, and then is seen at first entirely through Horace's eyes. We are not even told about Popeye's early life, as we are in the later deeper meanings of the confrontation between Benbow and Popeye are never exposed. We never get the feeling, for instance, as we do in the 1931 text, that in their isolation, voyeurism, and their different kinds of impotence, the two are really mirror images of each other.

Is there any truth at all in Faulkner's account of the two versions, then? In the literal sense, there is not. Admittedly, there may be a shade more sensationalism in Temple's account of the rape in the earlier version. But, on the other hand, Goodwin is not burned to death; the macabre details of Popeye's background are never rehearsed; and the slow, convoluted way in which the story is told tends to defuse the violence, making the dominant emotion one of melancholy rather than

**Daniel Webster**

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September 30th pp £3.95 paper £3.95

horror. As so often, however, Faulkner's lies point to a deeper truth. Though the *Ur-Sanctuary* is an incredibly interesting work, the narrative is clumsily organised and occasionally confused. It offers echoes of earlier books which are often embarrassing or even debilitating. And the extended presentation of Benbow provides Faulkner with too many opportunities for self-indulgence.

In effect, the original text of *Sanctuary* is by no means "terrible," as Faulkner claimed, but it is awkwardly structured and cloyingly introspective, apparently contaminated by the obsessiveness, narcissism, and self-involvement of its major character. What Faulkner did, in the process of rewriting, was to transform this distinctly unpromising material into a vision of evil: a vision that depends, for its power, on the discovery that Benbow's condition is shared by Temple, Popeye, and the entire world they inhabit, which seems very gradually to be running down.

**Richard Gray**  
Richard Gray is reader in the department of literature at the University of Essex.

## Warrior statesman

**Grant: a biography** by William S. McFeeley  
Norton, £12.95  
ISBN 0 393 01372 3

American historians are easily, but not necessarily unfairly, charged with excessive "presentism". This, the first modern biography of Grant will be warmly praised and as roundly criticized for that characteristic.

American liberals' disenchantment, after Vietnam, with war, and their increasing disillusionment with contemporary American politics, are truly reflected in Professor McFeeley's work. McFeeley's heart is in the right place, that is, on his sleeve: he detects war, and he finds in late nineteenth-century Republicanism little but the selfish complacency of the bourgeoisie. Not surprisingly, General Grant emerges in his book as a man of modest abilities whose ordinariness was only transcended in the "obscene exhilaration of war", whose ambition and craving for attention were disguised by an habitual taciturnity and simplicity of bearing and manner, and whose eye remained forever fixed on the dollar which his hand never securely grasped. He was the very model of a petit bourgeois general.

The history of war may be too important to leave to the generals; but a pronounced distaste for war somewhat restricts any historian of generalship. McFeeley simply fails to provide a fully balanced account of Grant's wartime achievements and defects. His generalizations carry little weight: "Grant taught us that war is annihilation" and Grant learnt that "war is an act: to make war is to kill" tell us little of a commander who executed one of the most daring strategic manoeuvres and who laid some of the most sweeping, and effective, strategic plans in the history of modern warfare. Competent, often graphic, narratives of battles, interspersed with brief, sometimes emotive, reflections on them, do scant justice to the controversial and complex literature of military history. For example, General J. C. Fuller's classic *The Great War* (1920) may be wrong - it is certainly idiosyncratic - but its powerful, detailed, eloquent and professionally well-informed analyses are not matched, and certainly not refuted, by anything

**Bruce Collins**  
Bruce Collins is lecturer in modern history at the University of Glasgow.

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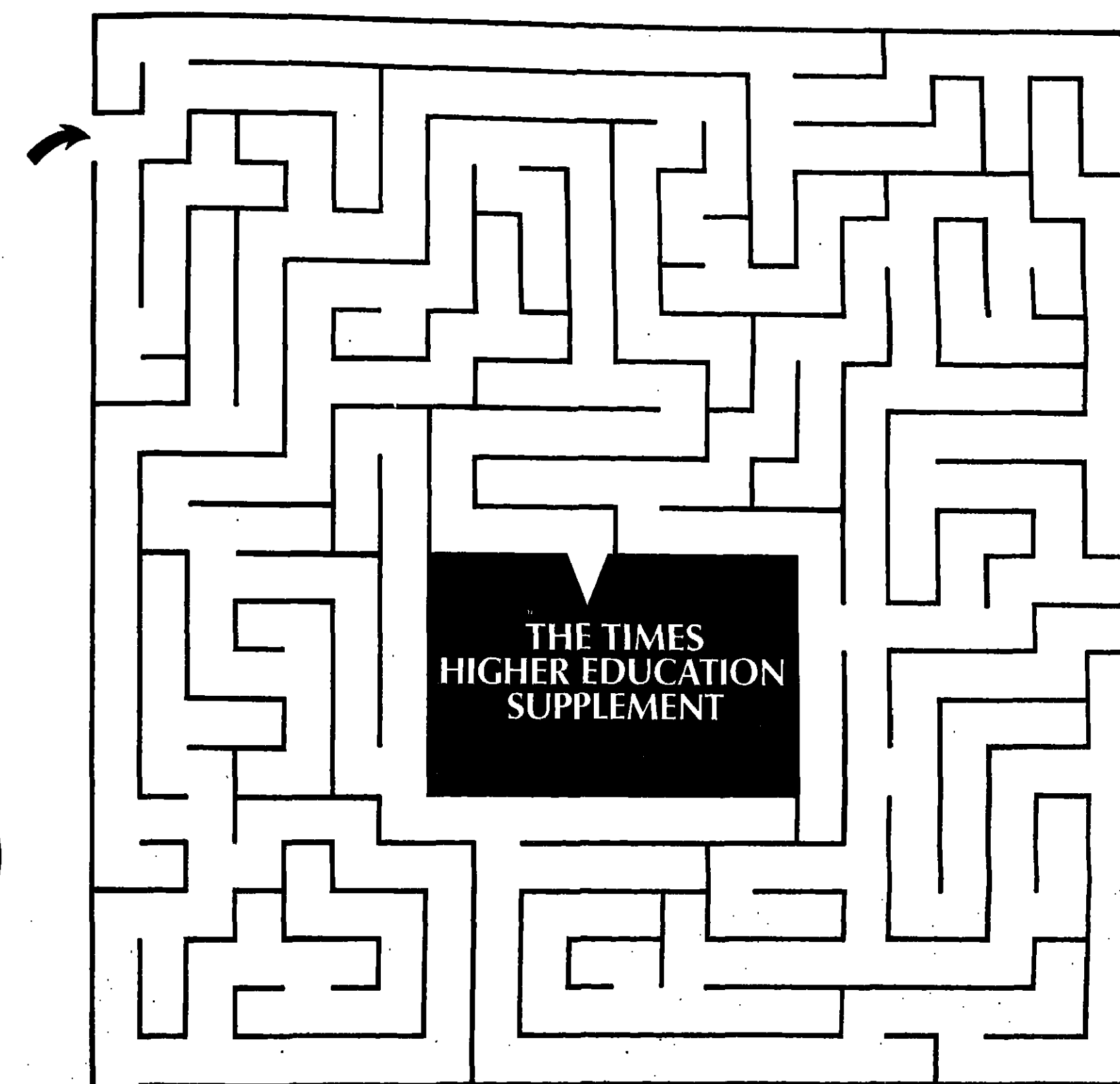
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# Don's diary

## Monday

On this sunny morning it shakes me to receive, starkly as Number 18819652 DX, my monthly retirement pension with its warning: "If you are a man UNDER AGE 70 or woman UNDER AGE 65 in receipt of retirement pension you must report if you earn £52.10 or more in any calendar week." Somehow this number haunts me. Recently at the frontier of East Germany, checked as No L0285036, I was scrutinized by a well-built lady in uniform who, looking me sternly in the eyes, murmured: "Senioren?" Thereon I was permitted, unlike my wife, to pass on free of charge. So now, 40 years on, with my fellow National Service conscripts of former days scattered far and asunder, once again I am identified by numbers.

## Tuesday

Spent the morning in the local college library hunting through some 20 books dealing with Martin Luther. This in response to a request from my East German teacher correspondent who has asked me to supply information about Luther's ideas on education. It seems that the DDR is already preparing to celebrate the quinquenary of the birth of Luther in 1483 in a big way. Special tourist attractions are being organized (designed to bring in useful foreign currency) to those centres where Luther voiced his revolt against the established authorities. I find a vast literature on Luther mostly preoccupied with his theology, with some diverting psychiatric interpretations of his behaviour. His own theory that every seventh year life changes is intriguing but he leaves me in limbo for, having identified each of the changes up to 41, he then concludes "soon after this men begin to lose their sense." Elsewhere he offers me a morsel of comfort and I learn: "Young fellows are tempted by girls, men who are 30 years old are tempted by gold, those of 40 by honours and glory, and those who are 60 think: if only I were pious now."

## Wednesday

This morning's mail brings a curious questionnaire in four languages from an organization in Italy calling itself *Accademia Italia delle Arti e del Lavoro*. The covering letter informs me that a volume is being prepared "containing information on personalities who are particularly distinguished in the contemporary world." This appeal to personal vanity is strengthened by telling me that "we are pleased to inform you that the committee, whose task it is to choose the personalities to be included in this edition, has decided to include your name." There is no indication of the membership of this committee by the signatory of the letter. Only in small print at the very end do I learn that with the returned questionnaire, I should send \$30 now, and a further \$30 on receiving the volume at the end of 1981. Alas, at three score and ten I find no glamour in publicizing my "activities practised in the past," not even for circulation in Italian, French, German or English.

## Thursday

Watched on BBC-1 further instalment of Michael Sadleir's *Fanny by Gaslight* to which the *Radio Times* gave such a lyrical write-up, pointing to the novel as a significant social document. The blurb was a far cry from Sadleir's own assessment as set down in his *Memoir of his father*: "A novel of which for the last 25 years at least I have been sadly ashamed. To say so is no exaggeration, for the

book is mawkish, priggish, treacly and dull."

How often, when I was editing the anthology *Selections from Michael Sadleir: Studies in World Citizenship*, well meaning secretaries "corrected" my spelling of references to his son Michael Sadleir. Patiently I had to explain the confusion that all came about because of *Fanny by Gaslight*. While father Michael Sadleir, Vice-Chancellor of Leeds University, was away in India, the novel appeared under the name of M. T. H. Sadleir. A Bradford journalist seeing a chance of scoring a point off Leeds where there was a local rivalry, produced a review headed *A Vice Chancellor's Love Story*. When this fell into father Sadleir's hands he was distinctly rattled. He declared that it mistook him, Leeds and his university, look ridiculous. The novelist son was likewise irritated that his "masterpiece" should have been attributed to someone else. So the "T" crept into Sadleir, being taken from the lineage of a seventeenth century diplomat, Sir Ralph Sadleir. I wonder if half a dozen secretaries in various parts of the country remembered this story if they watched the BBC production.

## Friday

Happy to receive an invitation from a northern university to act as external examiner for a PhD candidate. From the terms of the registrar's letter concerning fee, I note that I shall not be in any danger, as Number 18819652 DX, of transgressing the rubric of earning "£52.10 or more in any calendar week."

Pleased also to receive the data of the annual Sadleir Hall Thanksgiving Service which we initiated 32 years ago. I well remember Michael Sadleir coming up for the dedication ceremony. An aesthete, he expressed a wish on the Sunday morning to see the little Norman church which stands nearby. It was a rainy morning. His shoes and trousers got rather wet. On his return to hall my wife suggested that we could dry his trousers and meanwhile I could lend him a pair. Apparently he misunderstood. With horror in his voice he exclaimed: "I couldn't possibly attend the service in your husband's trousers."

## Saturday

Re-read research I did 45 years ago for a post-graduate history degree on the story of the Dame Schools. Decided to accept the invitation from Budapest to re-mould this material for a conference to be held there next autumn on *The history of pre-school education and its relation to the history of education in general*.

When originally I did this research I was living in a rural area of north-west England where many grandparents still remembered their days at Dame Schools. My wife and I prepared a lantern lecture on this theme. This was given to Women's Institute meetings in some 30 villages. It evoked a wealth of anecdotal material and what would be prized as oral history. During a recent visit to Budapest I was surprised to be given a very well informed text of a lecture on *The influence of the English Infant School in Hungary* in which the Hungarian professor comments: "In Great Britain even before the setting up of the first infant schools there already existed some rudimentary institutions for daytime care of small children like the English Dame Schools. These rudimentary institutions came into being spontaneously in accordance with social demands."

J. H. Higginson

The author was first Warden of Sadleir Hall in the University of Leeds from 1949-1959.

## Two suitable cases for mistreatment



Steven Lukes

He was forced to flee after the military coup of September 1980. The new regime proceeded to suspend civil rights and practised imprisonment and torture, including among its victims several members of Kurtulus. He fled to Syria and thence to Lebanon, where he stayed until May this year, all the while under false identities and without papers. Two of his fellow escapees were arrested for trying to leave Beirut airport with false papers. Then the airport was closed for several weeks. Desperate to leave Lebanon, he appealed to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, which advised him that he could not obtain refugee status in the Middle East and encouraged him to travel to Europe. Thus he came to Heathrow.

The Home Office has advised his lawyers that its refusal of political asylum was based on the fact that he was in Syria and Lebanon before his arrival at Heathrow. But there is a recent treaty between Syria and Turkey for the return of wanted persons, and Turkey is pressing Syria to include those wanted for political offences. As for Lebanon, it is hardly in a condition to offer anyone the haven of political asylum. Neither Lebanon nor Syria signed the Convention on the Status of Refugees, and the Lebanese authorities were preparing to send Dogan's two colleagues back to Turkey - an outcome he managed to prevent by bribery. In short, the principle of

"country of first asylum", on which the refusal appears to have been based, makes no sense here and should be disregarded, as it has been in other cases. To send Dogan back to Syria, or Lebanon, or above all Turkey would probably be to send him to his death.

In the meantime, he waits, his temporary admission extended but revocable at any moment, without rights to work, to use the health services or to receive social security, or indeed to leave, since he has no valid travel documents. Worst of all, he has no right to appeal here against being placed in this very situation.

Or consider the case of Kay Hassan. He is a black South African artist living in Soweto, whose work is internationally known and portrays the ghetto life of black people in South Africa. He has exhibited in Norway and in West Germany. He arrived at Heathrow a week last Monday in order to exhibit his pictures in Britain. He was, however, detained by immigration officials, on the grounds that he was not a "genuine visitor." Fortunately for him, his friends contacted Roy Hattersley, MP, who intervened, and he was given temporary permission to stay in Britain.

But why should Kay Hassan need a permit to exhibit his paintings? (The Department of Employment has apparently confirmed that he does not.) And why should a black artist from South Africa be treated to such indignities - to which he will of course be well accustomed? How many visiting artists have had similar experiences? And what would have happened to him had he failed to have ardent friends with the sense to contact Roy Hattersley?

More generally, to what extent do these two different cases represent the tip of a very unpleasant iceberg? How many grandparents visiting their grandchildren or widows coming to their husband's funerals have been turned away and sent back home? How many students have been arrested and imprisoned on the ground that they failed to declare an intention to study on arrival at Heathrow? Many excellent people and organizations - lawyers, social workers, the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants - are vigilant and constantly seeking redress in such cases as they can. And indeed the overall track record compares reasonably well with other countries.

But still if you are a Turkish political activist of the left, or a black artist from Soweto, don't come to Heathrow with exaggerated notions of British justice. You may well be disappointed.



doubt some of them represent clever accounting exercises. That's not the point. Like the tiny fraction of their income that student unions donate to sectarian political causes, it's the small abuses which discredit the whole enterprise. This all seems like commonsense, which I'd expect experienced college administrators to accept, but no - they have to have their flowerbeds and penthouses.

After seeing the way some of them are trying to impose cutbacks on their colleges, perhaps I shouldn't be

have that short a period to put right centuries of elitism in the way and system is run, who's it run for, what it teaches. There is no chance after a higher hurdle than at present) is a stronger one than the argument that university teachers have as much right to their jobs as firemen on night trains.

Yours sincerely, GRAHAM HALLETT, Department of Economics, University College, Cardiff.

There are signs of progress. Some universities are not using the UGC cuts to reinforce their elitism, but instead are looking to new sources of funding, and along with new sorts of students, and new forms of education. Student unions are playing a central part. I think the crucial test will prove to be how HE reacts to youth unemployment, and to the new system of education under the guidance of the Manpower Services Commission. It is clear from statements by all the major parties that any new funds will go in that direction, and not towards traditional HE. Personally, I accept such an order of priorities. The HE system is going to have to serve the mass of people, with or without A levels, with its confidence. And that will involve giving up not just flowerbeds and penthouses, but all the indulgences of tradition.

Andy Pearnall

The author is Vice President (Education) of the National Union of Students.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Why we must resist the Government's attack on the university system

Sir - We consider that, as well as defending the social sciences specifically against the Government's cuts in expenditure on universities, our first responsibility as social scientists is to act responsibly against the socially catastrophic implications of the attack on the university system.

The University Grants Committee, instead of accepting this same responsibility and opposing with every intellectual resource at its command the Government's cuts, has in fact acted as executor of the cuts. Its avowed has been not to defend the universities but rather, in its own words, "to grapple with the problems of how the present university system might be reshaped within the financial constraints determined by the Government for the period up to 1983/84 (as set out in Cmd. 8175)". (UGC circular letter to vice chancellors, July 1, 1981.) This grappling might be necessary to weigh many competing claims for the diminished resources, and this was done despite the recognition that "reductions in resources are being imposed at a time when staff rising."

It is no secret that the very survival of certain universities is in question, not that in many others, whole subject areas will close down. Hundreds of academic units and departments, composed of men and women who have spent all their working lives in scholarly research and in the construction of teaching programmes and the guidance and counselling of students, will be irreparably broken

up. Thousands upon thousands of young people, particularly from the working class and from that layer of older students who work and study to enter into the system, will be denied higher education. Three thousand compulsory redundancies of academic staff are anticipated in some quarters, in addition to the teaching jobs lost through natural wastage. An even larger number of technicians, secretarial and clerical staff, and members of manual trades, will be dismissed.

Apart from these immediate consequences for higher education, development and change within the university system will be stultified for many years. If the universities are to carry out their functions of research and teaching there must be movement of staff between different institutions and the recruitment of young academics with fresh ideas. Mobility is already virtually nil and few new staff are now likely to be appointed. Furthermore, cuts in the number of postgraduate students will severely reduce the supply of good candidates for teaching posts in the universities. Why? It is perhaps because there is too much university education? Or because universities are teaching the wrong things?

The UGC's letters announcing the cuts and giving guidelines for the implementation do not of course make any such suggestions. Indeed, they give no reasons of any kind for the cuts they propose, except that Government is providing less money. That is to say, the cuts result from

Government economic and political policy. That policy is based on discredited monetarist theories which have combined with the world recession to produce an economic and social crisis of formidable and rapidly mounting proportions, as recent events on the streets indicate.

It is surely not possible for teachers and researchers in the social sciences to react to the cuts in universities as if they were themselves not part of this general context. Can we comply with the Government's attack on the universities (as the UGC is doing) when that attack is part of a general policy whose consequences are painfully evident? If we do comply, are we then not complicit in the social consequences of the Government's policy?

What we are witnessing is a catastrophic run-down of the universities. We cannot accept the attitude of the Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals, which is to request a more rational run-down over a more extended period than the projected three years. It is the Government itself, and its policy of attack (rationalization) on the universities which must be opposed, without qualification.

What is the actual meaning of the rationalization which the UGC professes? Behind it is an assumption (again, made without argument or evidence) that there exist certain economic criteria of the functioning of organizations as organizations, criteria which override the qualitative functions of those organizations.

and it is only since then that this structure has been extended, with adaptations, to other courses and facilities. Far from jumping on the modular bandwagon, we built it. Mr Ayer's report and contention that humanities "were better done by universities" is more difficult to deal with, mainly because it reflects a totally subjective judgment. Under the eye of our external examiners, most of whom are drawn from universities, we do what we can to maintain standards and we like to think that, though we may not always succeed, much of what we do is equal to, or even better than, what is done in some universities. Having spent much of my career warning students of the dangers of generalization, I feel I can say no more.

In a statement published in the newspaper of Middlesex Polytechnic on October 28, Mr Ayer claims to have been misreported by you. Whether this is true or not, it is interesting that he also writes: "My comments about the polytechnic humanities courses referred exclusively to personal experiences as a history lecturer in the late 1960s at Enfield College of Technology, long before Middlesex Polytechnic existed." So Mr Ayer's remarks were not only subjective; they also bore no relation to what has happened here in the last 12 years or so.

One can only hope that your readers will take this into account before reaching a conclusion about Mr Ayer's remarks.

Yours faithfully, RICHARD GUNTER, Acting Dean of Humanities, Middlesex Polytechnic.

### Polytechnic reply

Sir - My attention has been drawn to an item in *THE TIMES* on October 23 headed "Poly staff accused of sabotage", in which my colleague, Mr Julian Ayer, is reported as having made a public attack on the humanities area of Middlesex Polytechnic in the course of an address to the Standing Committee of Employers of Graduates. In view of the current pressure on polytechnics generally, and on certain "non-vocational" areas of their work in particular, it is necessary that much of what Mr Ayer is reported as having said be publicly rebutted.

To start with, we are accused of "sabotaging attempts to alter the balance of courses" and of resisting "attempts to cut down on the humanities." Any such attempts have been so subtle that I have no knowledge of them. Could it be that I have missed something and that it is because of this that humanities students as such in this polytechnic amount to only about 12 per cent of total numbers? So much for the balance of courses.

Next, humanities staff are accused of "promoting their own research interests" and of "using the polytechnic's modular structure to promote the development of courses directly to their own research interests." As the first of these charges we are guilty, I am afraid; but what respectable academic is not? We must also confess to a perhaps naive belief that there is a connexion between our research and the courses we teach. The rest of the second charge is, however, false, since the polytechnic had no modular structure at all until our humanities degree courses came into existence.

### Short courses

Sir - It was kind of Charlotte Barry to refer to the Polytechnic of Central London's continuing education programme as "the longest and most well-known short course provision." However, the agony of polytechnics in finding their role in continuing education has not yet afflicted us.

"Should they be concerned solely with mid-career training and retraining or should they concentrate more on reaching out to those who have not experienced education since leaving school and need a second chance?" Perhaps the reason is that continuing education is, and always has been, a continuum. To look at the extremes of the spectrum and contrast the infra-red with the ultra-violet may present a dramatic con-

front, but it does not correspond to reality. What should we say to the civil servant who, having dived into mathematics as a hobby, thought it would be fun to attend our course in civil engineering structures? How should we classify the multitude of professional estate agents, many of whom have not experienced education since leaving school, who flock to our courses in property negotiation?

Our short courses and diploma in women's studies, which have no formal entry requirement, to be regarded as reaching out to the educationally deprived who need a second chance even though a number of graduates are attracted to them. There are no tidy lines or slick definitions in continuing education. While resources are undoubtedly going to be the dominant problem

for higher education in the next quinquennium, I would have thought that the "additional difficulties in finding resources for continuing education" is one of the few hopeful areas. It certainly did not prove insurmountable in mounting the 526 courses which were attended by 16,000 students at the PCL last year.

We employed the principles enunciated by Professor Robin Hood in his study of differential fees for accommodation in Sherwood Forest. This policy has enabled a self-funding programme of short courses to increase tenfold in nine years.

Yours faithfully, TERENCE BURLIN, Senior Pro-Rector, Polytechnic of Central London, 35 Marybone Road, London NW1.

Financial and not academic or educational reasons are in fact the ones adduced for this or that proposal. As a result the educational and research functions of universities are being permanently damaged.

Allied with this is the point that the kind of efficiency criterion being applied utilizes, indeed, itself produces convenient measurable, quantitative elements such as hours, student numbers, ratios, demand, scores, etc., upon which to base educational decisions of a qualitative nature. Not only does this exclude consideration on the same level of the essential, qualitative content of the universities' work. It creates a situation where the expressed desire to keep the qualitatively best (excellence, etc.) - while reducing staff quantitatively - is actually pursued, again, on the basis of a reduction to quantitative norms - how many articles, books, funds, students attracted, etc. These are non-academic criteria, in themselves. The result is that virtually no truly academic, educational decisions are being made. Courses, areas of work, research projects and academic developments (and even whole universities) will be made to appear unviable and phased out as a result of financial/economic/rational and not academic considerations. There will be academic effects, but as a result of non-academic (anti-academic) decisions, in institutions whose only purpose is the pursuit of knowledge and instruction. How rational, after all, is this rationalization?

The technological universities have received little credit for trying to achieve what industry, and successive governments, have repeatedly asked them to do. Your series on higher education and industry had not really done full justice to their efforts. My own university has pioneered the "thick" sandwich course for the great majority of its undergraduates, it has made joint appointments with industry and has invited leading industrial managers and researchers to serve as visiting professors. In the social sciences and languages, studies it has concentrated on producing graduates with skills and experience leading directly to useful employment in industry and commerce.

All these efforts seem to have been in vain. The UGC has decided to hit the technological universities at a time when they were beginning to make a real impact on the country's industrial activity and when assets of this kind should have been preserved and not diminished. Yours sincerely, O. PICK, Pro-Vice Chancellor, University of Surrey, Guildford.

Sir - Roy Wallis, like any other reviewer, is entitled to form his own opinion of the content of our work (review of *Practice and Progress*, October 30); but we would like to set the record straight about our use of non-sexist language, which he roundly criticizes. We were equally appalled to read the published version of our chapter, and we fully agree that the continual use of "he or she" and "his or her" makes the prose clumsy in the extreme. We had actually used "she" and "her" throughout.

Despite the widespread and continuing use of male linguistic forms to include both men and women, publishers apparently still find it unacceptable to use female forms for the same purpose. Yours faithfully, MAUREEN CAIN, Institute of Criminology, University of Cambridge. JANET FINCH, University of Lancaster.

In addition, there is a point which is perhaps even more important in the long term. The threat of financial stringency and even bankruptcy is being used as the weapon to break for good the tenure which has traditionally obtained for academic staff in many universities. This is not a matter of temporary financial rationalization or economies. It is, on the contrary, the death-blow to a type of contract which is not a privilege but, on the contrary, is a powerful factor in ensuring academic freedom.

To oppose these attacks, refusing any complicity in their operation, is to take a stand against these reactionary tendencies, and it is the only course open to those who wish to preserve any scientific and intellectual integrity.

Yours sincerely, Sheila Allen; J. E. Laredo; G. Littlejohn; C. Slaughter; B. M. Thomas; A. Waton; D. Bowers; Brian Burkitt; G. H. Oxtoby; Margaret Wilkinson; I. Lane; J. B. Morrell; G. Scott; D. Kennelly; N. Patterson; Maurice Spies; M. Cogan; J. R. Harrison; Jacob L. de Villiers; R. Fellows; Keith McClelland; Philip Pettit; Carol Sherrard; Ian Vine; Bob Ashcroft; Jeff Hearn; Jim Kincaid; Eileen Moxon; Tony Novak; Jo Sutton; Nancy D. Glandon; Marie Macey; Ivain Reid; Margaret G. Riseborough; Charles Husband; Jenny Taylor; Richard Lindley. University of Bradford.

### University cuts

Sir - Mr Clive Jenkins has, of course, got it right: the UGC has got it badly wrong. The brutal damage inflicted on the technological universities (this summer is contrary to the national interest). It is hardly credible that no effort seems to have been made to make a detailed assessment of the effect of the cuts on those institutions which have been most savagely treated.

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### Sexist pronouns

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